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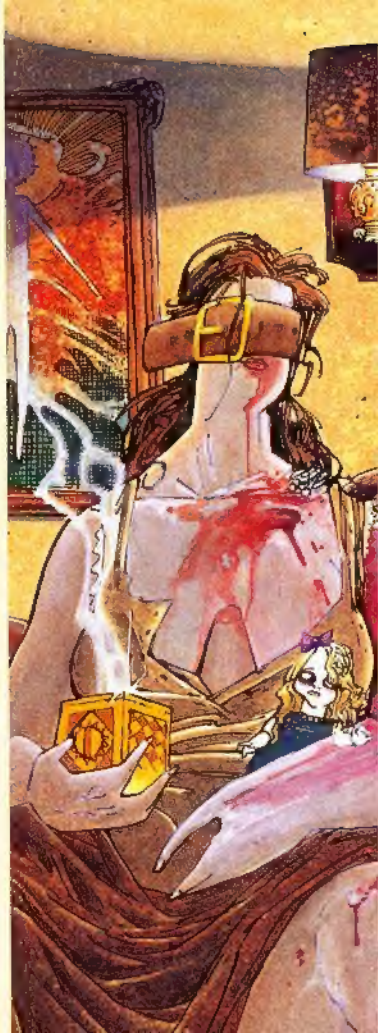
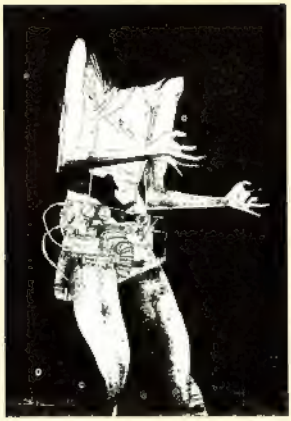
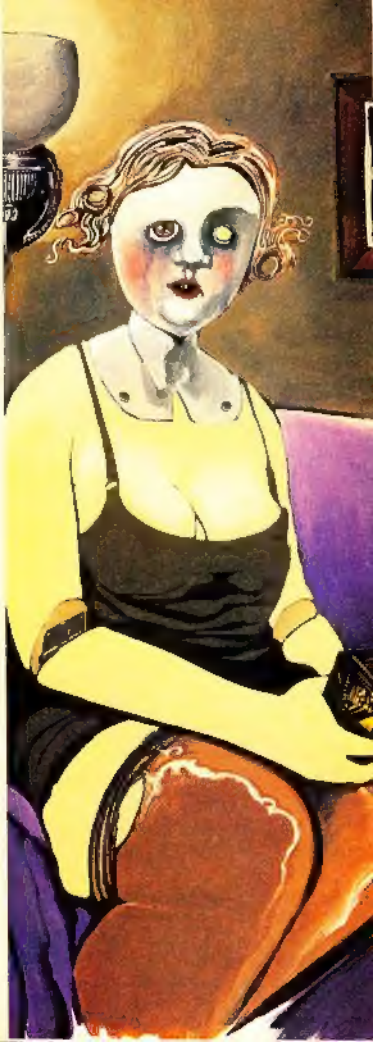
TED McKEEVER

Back in the early '80s, Ted McKeever earned his living doing storyboards, news graphics, and courtroom sketches for ABC affiliate WPSI Channel 10. This early work helped him base his art on reality as well as learn the fluidity of camera movements and angles. He went on to work for the Miami Herald on editorial art and illustrations for news and special sections. During this period, independent publisher Vortex produced five issues of McKeever's first comic book series Transit. Since then Ted has created many comic fan favorites: *Eddy Current, Plastic Forks, Metropia, Metropol A.D.*, as well as a host of other short stories and publications. Upcoming projects include a two-part *Legends of the Dark Knight*, a story about the DC Comics superhero Eclipso, and a four-part miniseries for DC Comics Vertigo line.

all artwork © Ted McKeever







CLOUDS WERE GLOWING. DOUGHT PRIESTS HEAD THEIR FIRST LOVES AWAY AS WHAT A FIX! WORRY THE GRAIN WON'T WAIT FOR ONE YEAR. ONE YEAR LONG THAT WE ELSE LIZARD WOULD EAT OUR GRAIN AND SURELY YOU IF WE SHOULD SATISH THEM
HOW DAUGHT IN HOLE IN STONE WALL. ONLY WAY OUT GUARDED BY BIG BLUE LIZARD. SHIT!
HOW COULD SHOOT LIZARD AND FLY AWAY WITH HOLE IN HEAD? NO, BIG MAN BREAK GUN TO SHOOT HOW
WHAT THAT PANTING NOISE?
MOLA MOLE
HMPH! BIG MAN AND WOMAN WRESTLING AGAIN. HOW THINK BIG MAN ALMOST KILL HIM. THEN LIZARD COME. HOW WEIRD. BIG MAN LIZARD DON'T EAT THEM. HOW CURE?
SCRAPE
SCUFF
HOW MUST THINK OF PLAN. ESCAPE FROM LIZARD. TALL BROWN WOMAN AND FLY AWAY. YES. YES. WHAT THAT?

WHAT THE— STRANGE CREATURE EMERGES FROM HOLE. HEY! WHERE YOU COME FROM?
BANGA WAGGA WANGA. BU BU.
BUGA WULA.
WULA PUT WANGA GOOGA!
IT BE A DIGGER A TREASURE DIGGIN AVAT LOOT MAYBE BOSS LION TURN.
WULA BOG WOOGA WOOGA!
HEY, WAIT MINUTE. BOG WANT TREASURE THAT ALL!
BOG WULA BHU BHU.
YES, BOG AND WULA CAN FIND RICH GOLD AND ARTIFACTS OF ANCIENT CIVILIZATION THAT OWNS THIS WORLD. SELL TO TOURISTS IN OUTBACK.
WULA WOOGA GHU MOG.
BOG PAY PRICE. EH? OKAY. WULA TAKE BOG OUT OF HERE. THEY HAVE DEAL.

WAAGA!
YES! WOLA TANE DUG INTO TARZAN TUNNEL!
UH – IT LOOKS SMALL. MAYBE TOO SMALL.
OUCH! NOT THAT
NO USE! HOLE TOO SMALL...
SHOOT!
WOLA LA GOOMA
NO! NO! NO THERE WOLA SHOULD GO THAT WAY!

THERE WAS ONE OTHER CLEAR NOW!
SHEMEN NO!
ZUK...
SPITUEY
CLUNK
MWA... MOLA HAT DOWE BACK
WOBBLE
MAYBE COULD SELL IN BUTAO... FOR PAPER WEIGHT. UGH! MOLA HEAD STILL INSIDE!
BUT TAXI NEED PLAY. MAYBE BIG MAN HELP BIG MAN! THEY AT IT AGAIN OR STILL IS THAT ALL THEY DO? DON'T THEY REALIZE LIFE AND DEATH STRUGGLE GOING ON
DENSAGA continues - Mature Readers $4.95 plus $1 postage per issue from FANTAGOR PRESS P.O. BOX 8632 KANSAS CITY, MO 64114 816-942-2805

ONE DAY IN 1972, IN THE MIDST OF THE VIETNAMESE JUNGLE BETWEEN THE VILLAGES OF XUAN LOC AND BIEN HOA...
WATCH IT!
SHHH!

THIS MUST BE A FREE FIRE ZONE.
CALL THE OTHERS. THEY MUST BE AT THEIR POSTS BY NOW. TELL THEM TO PREPARE THE MISSILE LAUNCHERS.
"BOGART CALLING BLOOD BROTHERS ONE AND TWO ARE YOU POSITIONED

AFFIRMATIVE BRO THER NUMBER ONE
AFFIRMATIVE BROTHER NUMBER TWO
ALL CLEAR ALERT THE CHOPPERS
ARE YOU SURE THE TROOP SHIP WILL BE ABLE TO GET THROUGH?
YES. FRANKLY NOBODY'S GOING TO SCREW WITH US.
YOU'RE RIGHT IT'S GOING TO BE A BLAST
I'M CALLING IN THE CHOPPERS. GET READY TO PARTY
HURRY UP, SERGEANT. I'M GETTING A LITTLE ANXIOUS HERE
BOGART CALLING CHOPPERS

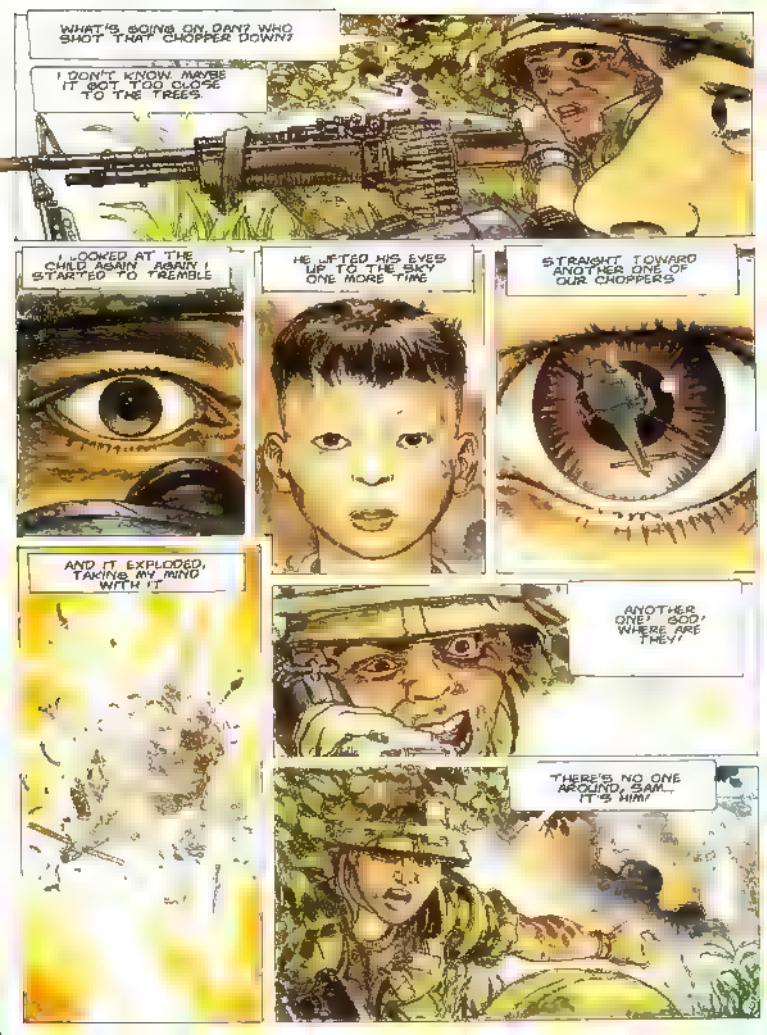
BOBART, DO YOU READ? WE FOUND CHARLIE. SWITCH TO FREQUENCY SEVEN OVER.
BOBART, WE'RE ON OUR WAY. GET YOUR MISSILES READY. ANYTHING PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS FOR US DOWN THERE?
NEGATIVE, CHOPPERS. NO BIG DEAL.
OK. WE'RE COMING.
LET'S GO! KEEP YOUR FINGERS CROSSED AND KEEP YOUR BALLS TIGHT
WATCH OUT! WE'RE UNDER FIRE!

GET THOSE FLARES WORKING.
THERE THEY ARE!

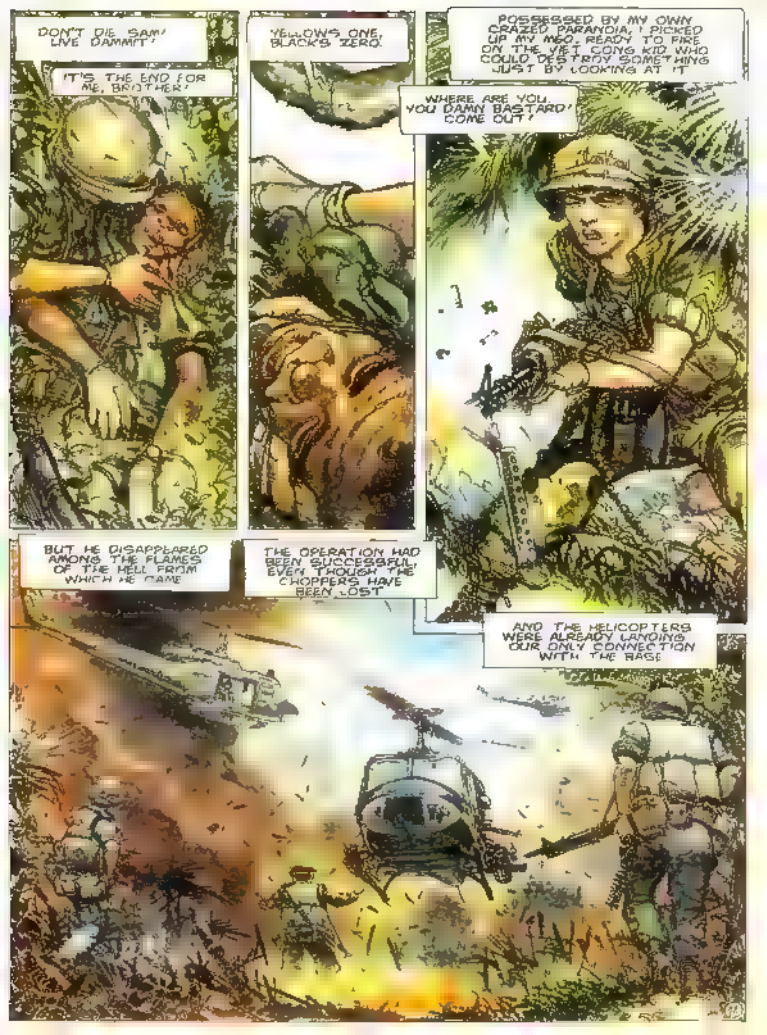
KEEP CHARLIE BUSY SO THE TROOP SHIP CAN GET THROUGH!
SHOOT!
COME ON, YOU JOINTS!
WHAT ARE THOSE CHOPPERS DOING?
6

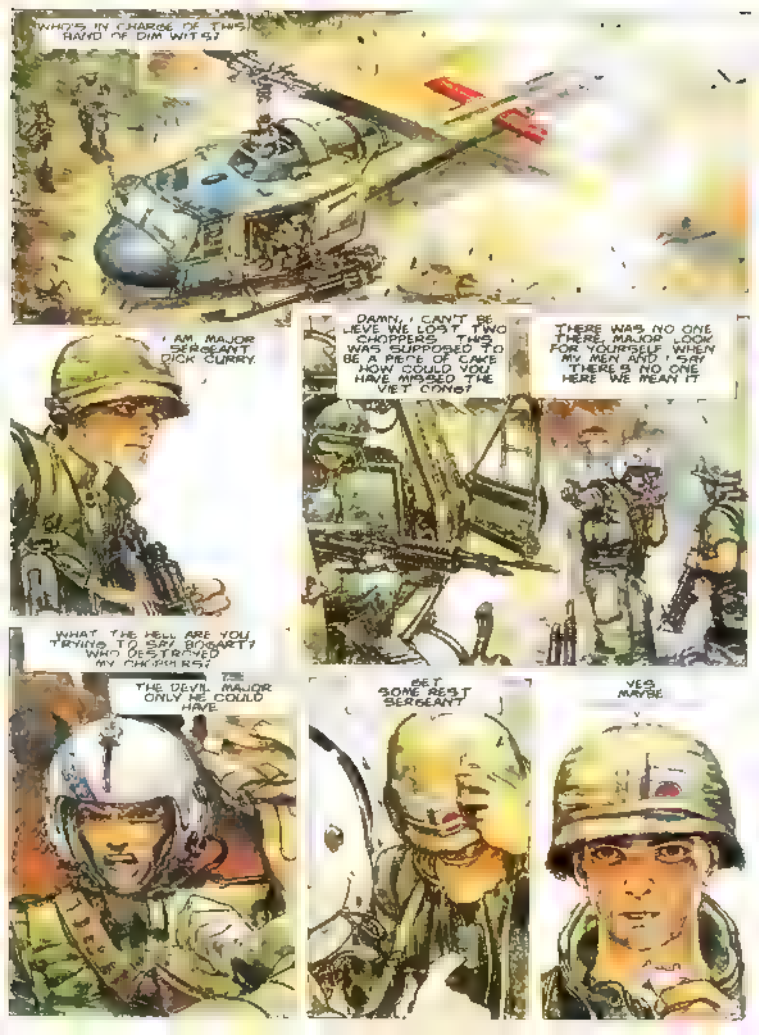
NOW!
YES! STRIKE ONE!

I SAW HIM AT THAT VERY MOMENT
HE WAS STANDING THERE MOTIONLESS IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THOSE DEAD BODIES NOT EVEN UTTERING A SOUND
IT SEEMED CERTAIN THAT HE WAS GOING TO WIND UP AS JUST ANOTHER CORPSE IN THAT PILE
NO TEARS NOT THE SLIGHTEST TREMOR APPEARED ON HIS FACE
I DON'T KNOW WHY BUT I STARTED TO TREMBLE WHEN HE LIFTED HIS EYES TO THE SKY
TOWARD ONE OF OUR CHOPPERS
ALL THAT I KNOW IS THAT THE HELICOPTER EXPLODED AS IF SHATTERED BY AN INVISIBLE FORCE


WHAT'S GOING ON, DAN? WHO SHOT THAT CHOPPER DOWN?
I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE IT GOT TOO CLOSE TO THE TREES.
I LOOKED AT THE CHILD AGAIN AGAIN I STARTED TO TREMBLE
HE LIFTED HIS EYES UP TO THE SKY ONE MORE TIME
STRAIGHT TOWARD ANOTHER ONE OF OUR CHOPPERS
AND IT EXPLODED, TAKING MY MIND WITH IT
ANOTHER ONE? GOD, WHERE ARE THEY?
THERE'S NO ONE AROUND, SAM... IT'S HIM!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU SAYING? I CAN'T HEAR A THING
IT'S THAT KID!! THAT KID STANDING THERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE VILLAGE STREET I'M SURE IT'S HIM!
WHAT ARE YOU STONED!
AHHH!
BAM!

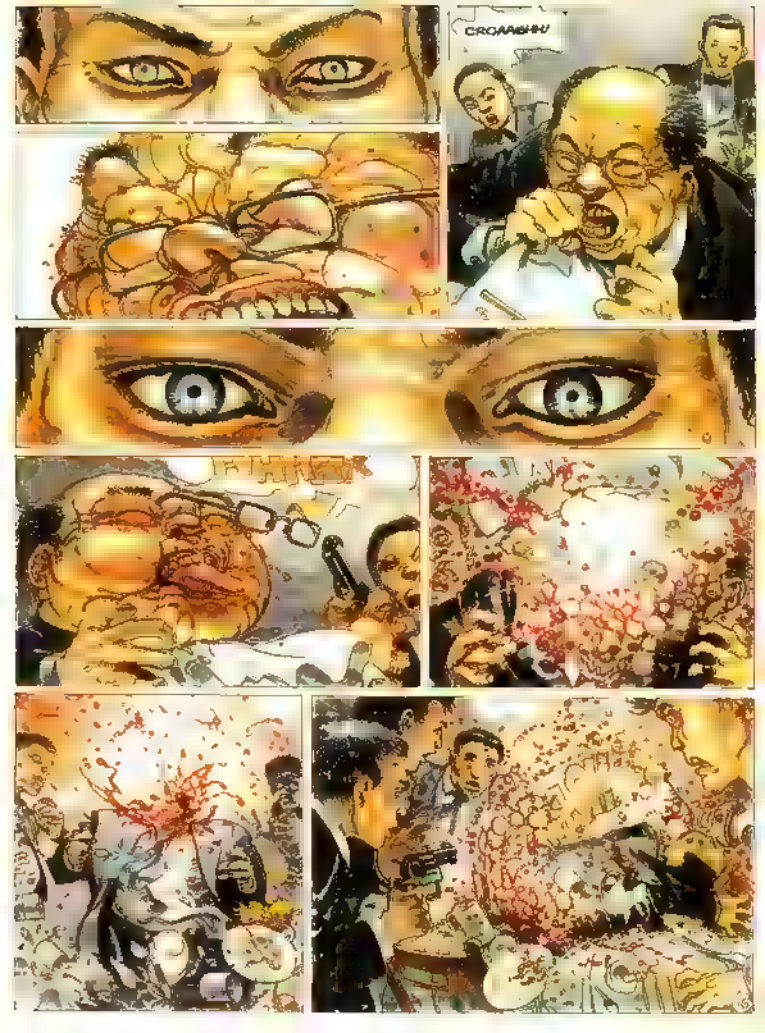

DON'T DIE SAM! LIVE DAMMIT!
"IT'S THE END FOR ME, BROTHER"
YELLOWS ONE, BLACKS ZERO.
POSSESSED BY MY OWN CRAZED PARANOIA, I PICKED UP MY M60, READY TO FIRE ON THE VIET CONG KID WHO COULD DESTROY SOMETHING JUST BY LOOKING AT IT
WHERE ARE YOU, YOU DAMN BASTARD! COME OUT!
BUT HE DISAPPEARED AMONG THE FLAMES OF THE HELL FROM WHICH HE CAME
THE OPERATION HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL, EVEN THOUGH THE CHOPPERS HAVE BEEN LOST
AND THE HELICOPTERS WERE ALREADY LANDING OUR ONLY CONNECTION WITH THE BASE


WHO'S IN CHARGE OF THIS HAND OF DIM WITS?
I AM MAJOR SERGEANT DICK CURRY.
DAMN, I CAN'T BELIEVE WE LOST TWO CHOPPERS. THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A PIECE OF CAKE. HOW COULD YOU HAVE MISSED THE VIET CONG?
THERE WAS NO ONE THERE, MAJOR. LOOK FOR YOURSELF WHEN MY MEN AND I SAY THERE'S NO ONE HERE WE MEAN IT
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY, BOGART? WHO DESTROYED MY CHOPPERS?
THE DEVIL MAJOR. ONLY HE COULD HAVE.
BE I SOME REST SERGEANT
YES. MAYBE.

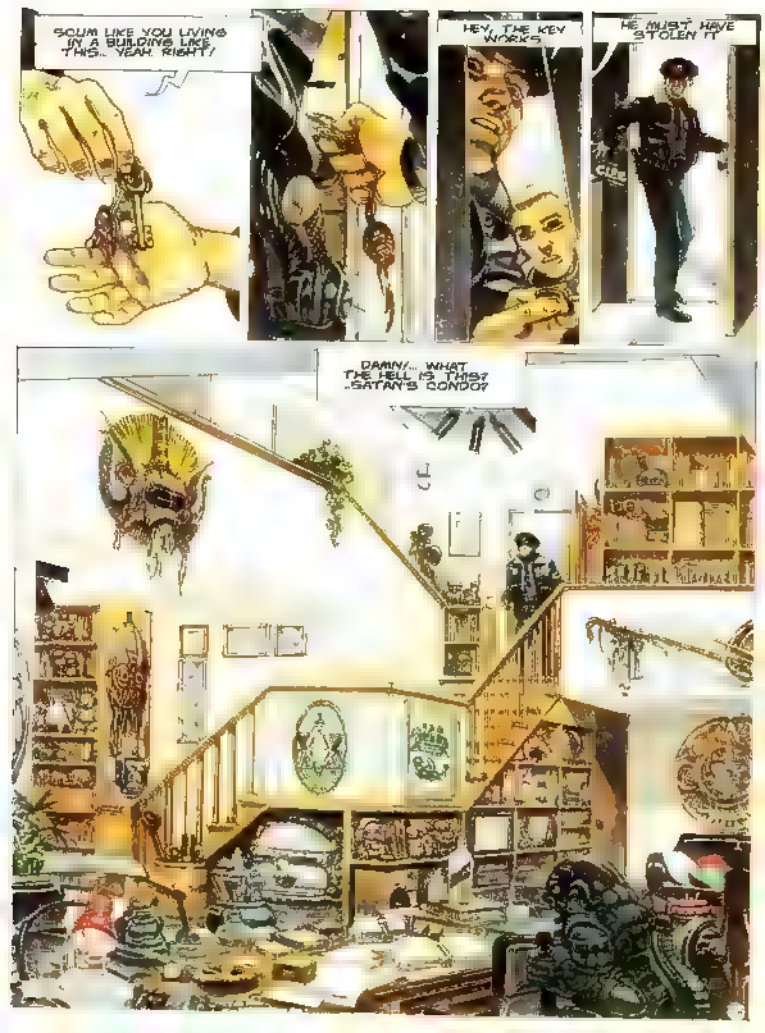
NIGHT IN LOS ANGELES' CHINATOWN AN ASPHALT JUNGLE.
HERE WE ARE
THEY SAY IT'S THE BEST
I HOPE SO, BENJAMIN YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I HAVE TOO MUCH MSG.
COME BACK LATER WE HAVE NO ROOM NOW
YOU MUST BE JOKING. LET US IN!
IT'S FULL I SAID!
VERY WELL I'LL GO CALL THE POLICE!
DON'T MAKE A FUSS OR THE CHEF WILL HAVE TO ROAST THE LARGEST PIG HE'S EVER SEEN IN HIS LIFE
BENJAMIN, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE
YOU SHOULDN'T GET UPSET LIKE THIS. YOU KNOW HOW BAD YOU'LL FEEL LATER

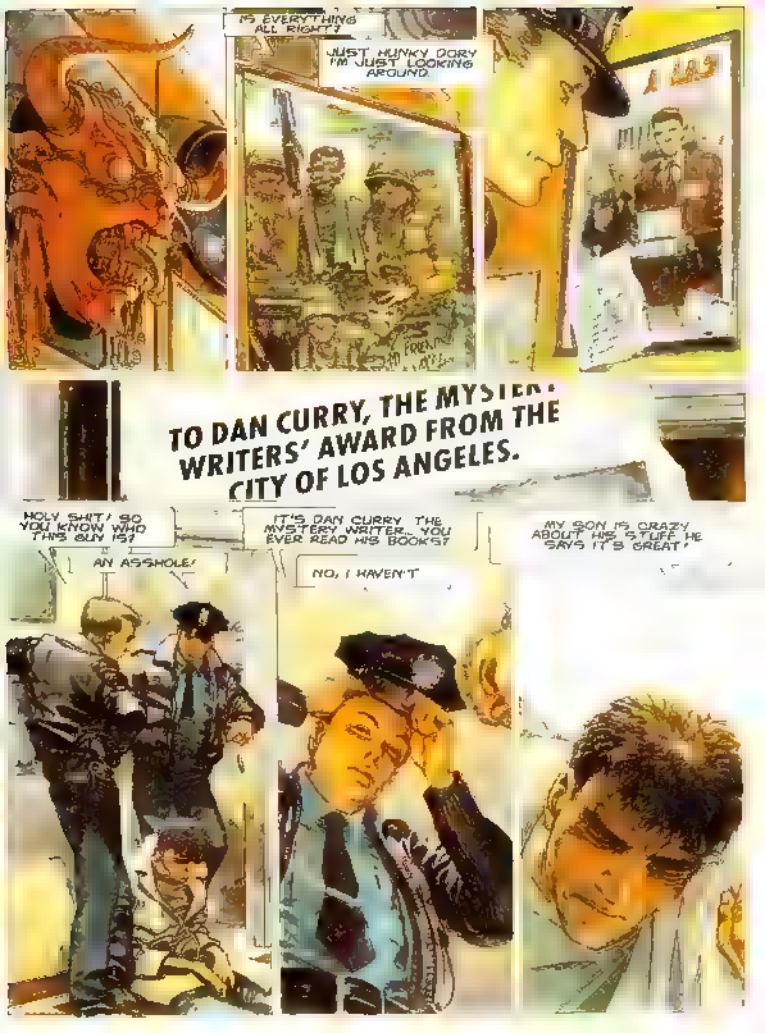
TAKE CARE OF THEM, DOG!
RIGHT AWAY, SIR.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? HURRY UP. THERE ARE CUSTOMERS WAITING!
TELL ME YOU OLD JERK
WHO PUT THOSE TWO GUARDS OUT SIDE THE DOOR TO SCARE AWAY OUR CUSTOMERS?
HIS NAME IS SU ZHOU SOME SAY HE'S THE MOST POWERFUL GODFATHER IN CHINATOWN. SOME SAY IN LOS ANGELES
SYS

LOOK CAREFULLY AT THAT MAN OVER THERE, MY SON.
- HE'S THE ONE WHO WANTS TO HURT YOUR MOTHER
THAT ONE?
AAASH!

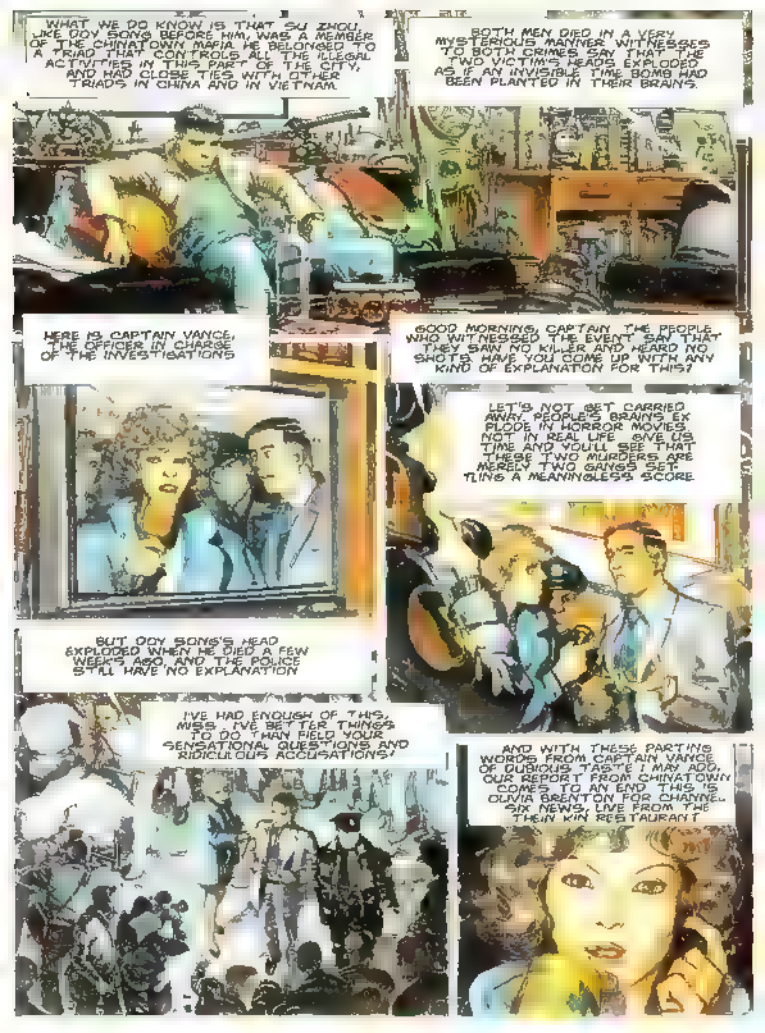

CROAAGH!!

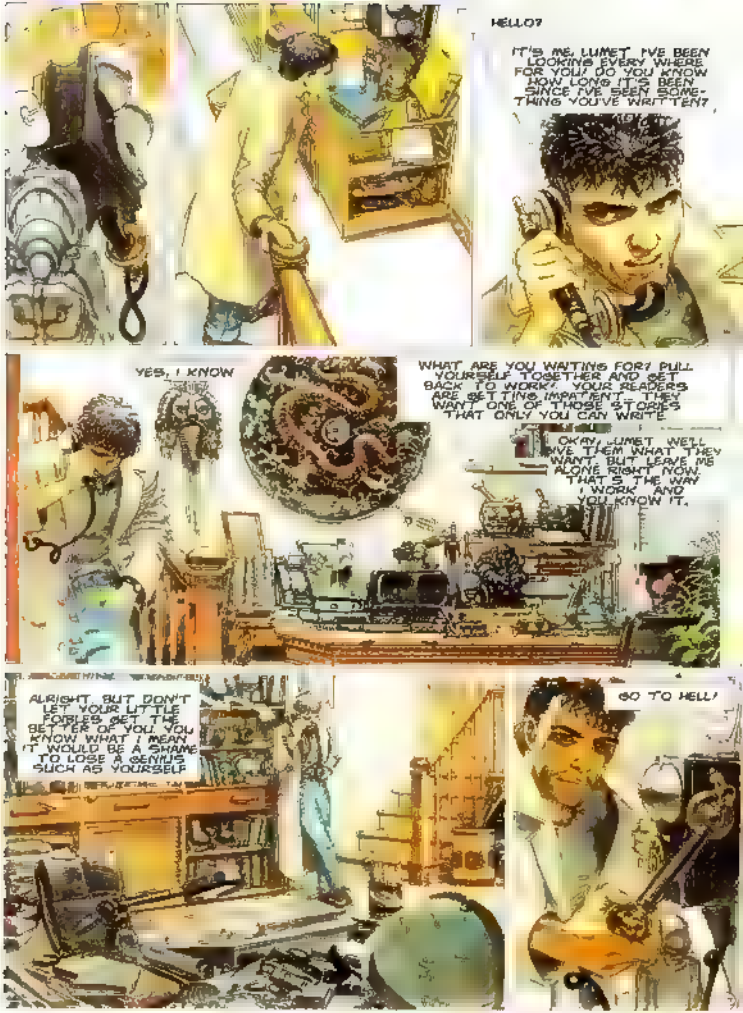
WHERE IS HE?
HE'S ON THE LANDING, ON THE SECOND FLOOR
TRY ANY FUNNY STUFF AND I'LL BLOW YOUR HEAD OFF!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, MAN?
GET UP, SCUM! DON'T MAKE ME WAIT
I LIVE HERE, BUT I'M TOO TOO TIRED TO OPEN MY DOOR


SCUM LIKE YOU LIVING IN A BUILDING LIKE THIS.. YEAH RIGHT!
HEY, THE KEY WORKS
HE MUST HAVE STOLEN IT
DAMN!... WHAT THE HELL IS THIS? .SATAN'S CONDO?


IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?
JUST HUNKY DORY I'M JUST LOOKING AROUND.
TO DAN CURRY, THE MYSTERY WRITERS' AWARD FROM THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES.
HOLY SHIT! SO YOU KNOW WHO THIS GUY IS?
AN ASSHOLE!
IT'S DAN CURRY. THE MYSTERY WRITER. YOU EVER READ HIS BOOKS?
NO, I HAVEN'T
MY SON IS CRAZY ABOUT HIS STUFF. HE SAYS IT'S GREAT!

MAYBE LET'S HELP HIM GET INSIDE.
SO, THIS IS WHAT WE'VE COME TO...
PUT HIM ON THE COUCH AND LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
LOOK WHAT WE HAVE HERE
WHAT IS IT?
MARIJUANA. IF WE DIG AROUND SOME MORE, I BET WE'LL FIND OUT THE REAL SOURCE OF MR. MYSTERY WRITER'S GENIUS. A LITTLE LSD, PERHAPS?
LET IT GO, JUST THIS TIME. I CAN'T TELL MY SON THAT HIS IDOL IS A JUNKIE, A BUM!
YOU ARE THE JUNKIES.
...MY FRIENDS, AND YOUR DRUG IS TELEVISION
...AND ONCE AGAIN, AS IN THE CASE OF JOY SONG'S DEATH TWO MONTHS AGO, NO ONE CAN EXPLAIN WHAT TOOK PLACE HERE


WHAT WE DO KNOW IS THAT SU ZHOU, LIKE DOY SONG BEFORE HIM, WAS A MEMBER OF THE CHINATOWN MAFIA HE BELONGED TO A TRIAD THAT CONTROLS ALL THE ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES IN THIS PART OF THE CITY, AND HAD CLOSE TIES WITH OTHER TRIADS IN CHINA AND IN VIETNAM
BOTH MEN DIED IN A VERY MYSTERIOUS MANNER WITNESSES TO BOTH CRIMES SAY THAT THE TWO VICTIM'S HEADS EXPLODED AS IF AN INVISIBLE TIME BOMB HAD BEEN PLANTED IN THEIR BRAINS
HERE IS CAPTAIN VANCE, THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE INVESTIGATIONS
GOOD MORNING, CAPTAIN THE PEOPLE WHO WITNESSED THE EVENT SAY THAT THEY SAW NO KILLER AND HEARD NO SHOTS HAVE YOU COME UP WITH ANY KIND OF EXPLANATION FOR THIS?
BUT DOY SONG'S HEAD EXPLODED WHEN HE DIED A FEW WEEKS AGO, AND THE POLICE STILL HAVE NO EXPLANATION
LET'S NOT GET CARRIED AWAY, PEOPLE'S BRAINS EXPLODE IN HORROR MOVIES, NOT IN REAL LIFE GIVE US TIME AND YOU'LL SEE THAT THESE TWO MURDERS ARE MERELY TWO GANGS SETTLING A MEANINGLESS SCORE
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS, MISS I'VE BETTER THINGS TO DO THAN FIELD YOUR SENSATIONAL QUESTIONS AND RIDICULOUS ACCUSATIONS!
AND WITH THESE PARTING WORDS FROM CAPTAIN VANCE OF CHINATOWN'S 4TH PRECINCT, WE ADD OUR REPORT FROM CHINATOWN COMES TO AN END THIS IS OLIVIA BRENTON FOR CHANNEL SIX NEWS LIVE FROM THE THEIN KIN RESTAURANT


HELLO?
IT'S ME, LUMET. I'VE BEEN LOOKING EVERYWHERE FOR YOU! DO YOU KNOW HOW LONG IT'S BEEN SINCE I'VE SEEN SOMETHING YOU'VE WRITTEN?
YES, I KNOW
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER AND GET BACK TO WORK! YOUR READERS ARE GETTING IMPATIENT. THEY WANT ONE OF THOSE STORIES THAT ONLY YOU CAN WRITE.
OKAY, LUMET. WE'LL GIVE THEM WHAT THEY WANT, BUT LEAVE ME ALONE RIGHT NOW. THAT'S THE WAY I WORK AND YOU KNOW IT.
ALRIGHT, BUT DON'T LET YOUR LITTLE FOIBLES GET THE BETTER OF YOU. YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN. IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO LOSE A GENIUS SUCH AS YOURSELF
GO TO HELL!

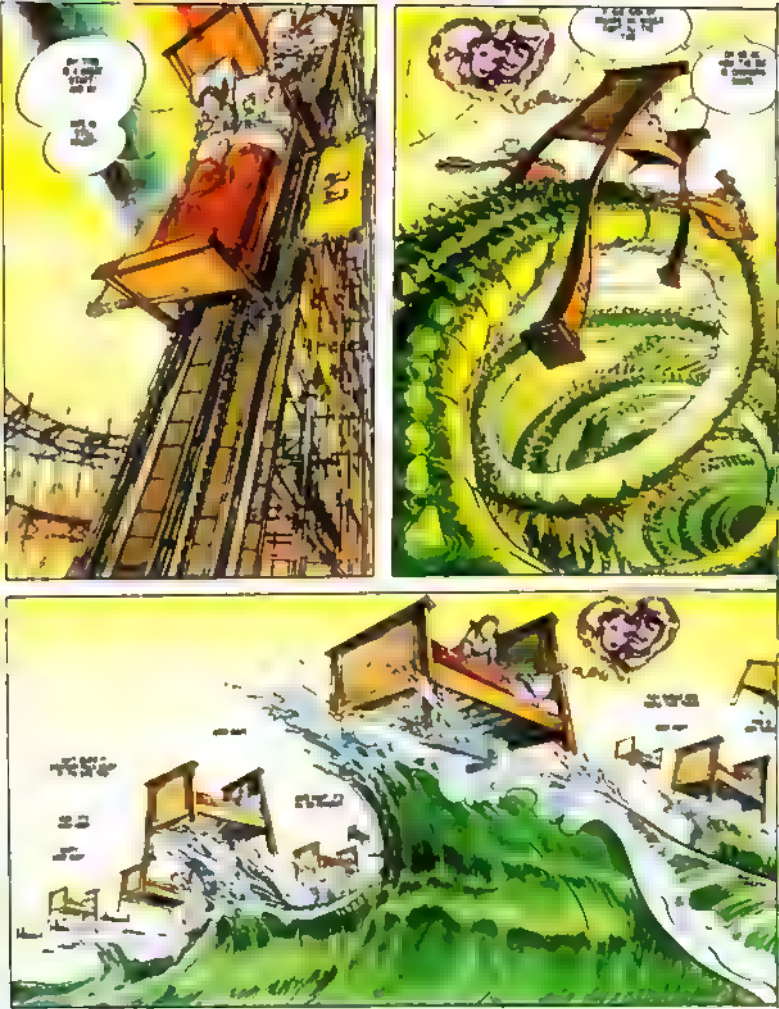
WAS THAT THE TABLE WHERE ZHOU AND HIS MEN WERE SITTING?
CAN YOU REMEMBER WHO WAS SITTING ACROSS FROM THEM?
THE POLICE TOLD US NOT TO TALK
WHY NOT?... ALL I WANT TO KNOW IS IF YOU NOTICED ANYTHING STRANGE OR DIFFERENT FROM USUAL
NOTHING IN PARTICULAR, SIR. A WOMAN AND A YOUNG MAN IN A WHEEL CHAIR WERE SITTING AT THE CLOSEST TABLE ACROSS FROM ZHOU AND HIS MEN
OLD MAN, I WANT TO TALK TO YOU
RIGHT AWAY, SIR

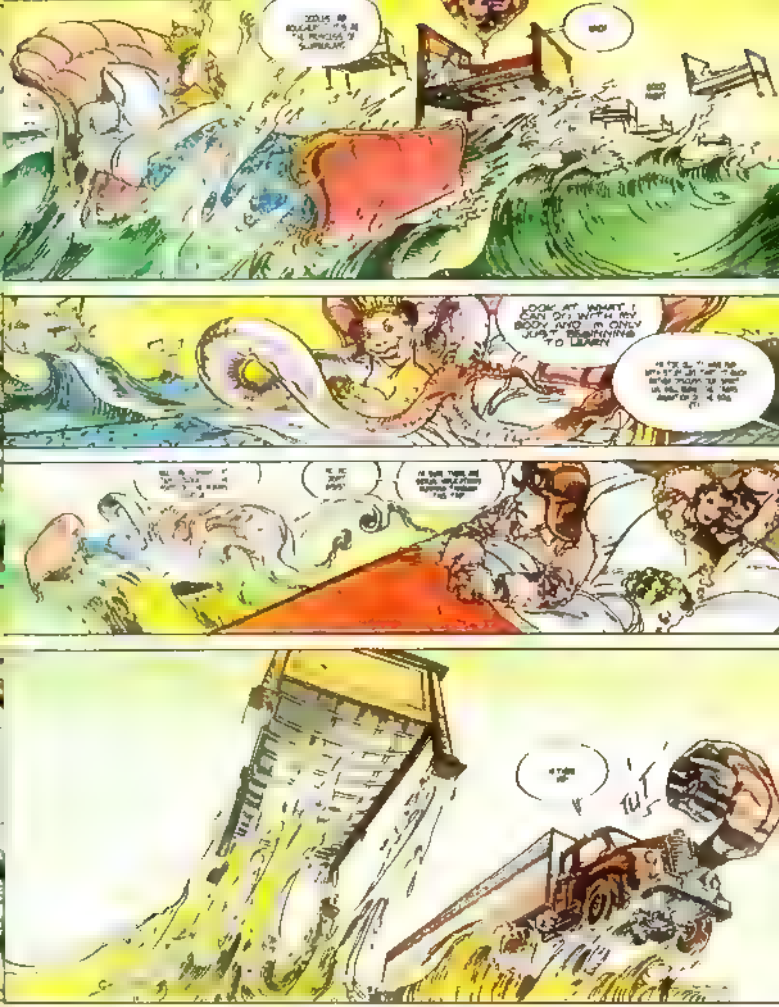
CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

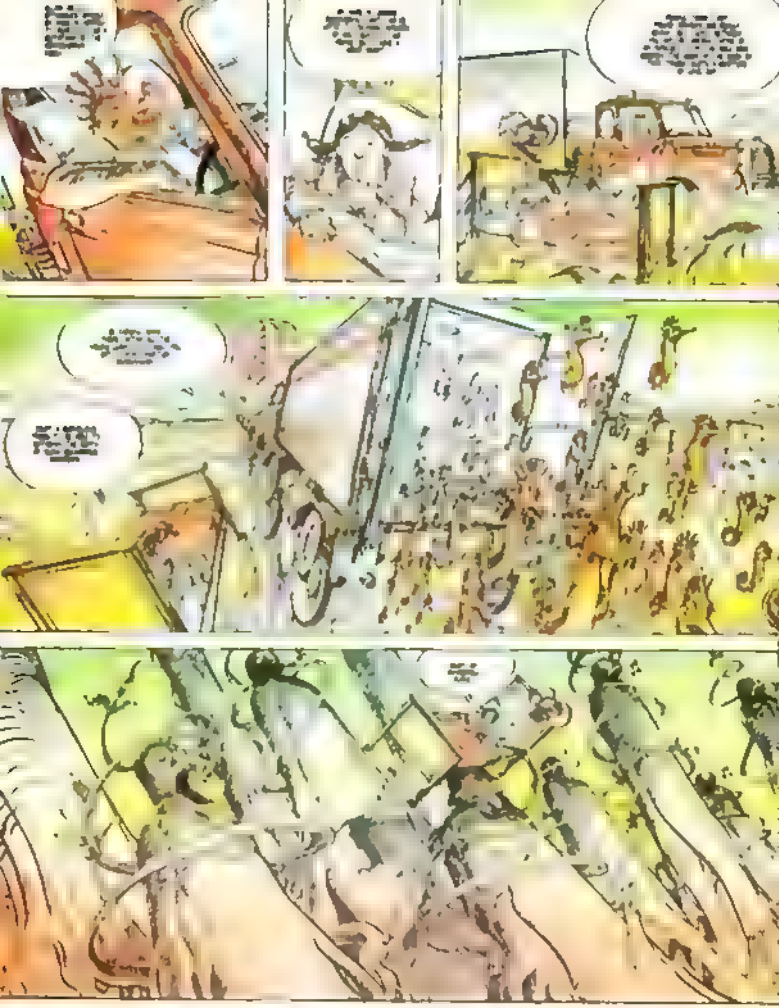
DREAMING

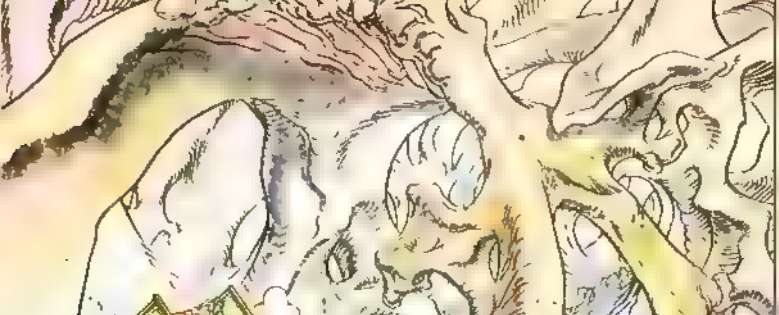
WHAT IS IT THE NURSE?
SHE'S SNORING AWAY SO.
HEY! YOU DON'T THINK I'M GOING TO LET YOU LEAVE LIKE THAT?
YOU FORGOT TO SCAM YOUR PROSTHESES BY THE GLASS! WE ALL HAVE TO FIGHT THE WAR AGAINST INFIRMITY INTO OUR
OK, I'M SORRY PROFESSOR! LOST MY HEAD

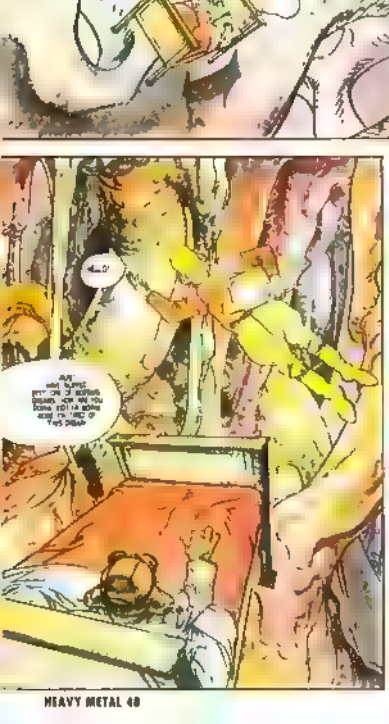
YOU'LL GET IT ALL BACK IN TIME DEAR
VERY WELL, BUT- WAIT WELL, LOOK LIKE UNTIL THEN COULDN'T YOU PUT ON SOME SORT OF FACE?
LET'S GET TO WORK
I'VE GRAB YOU A LITTLE SNACK. LOOK YOU'LL LOOK STUNG BUT IT'S JUST FOR NOW
LET'S NOT WORRY ABOUT THE FUTURE, OUR TIME IS SHORT ENOUGH AS IT IS. LET'S NOT WORRY ABOUT THE TOMORROW, AN JUNK OF WORK" LET YOU LEAVE.
IF THEY SAW YOU NOW IT'D BE RUSHMAN POWERS FOREVER
OH YA, SO LAST NIGHT I RAN INTO ONE OF MY OLDER READERS
OH HEAVENS!

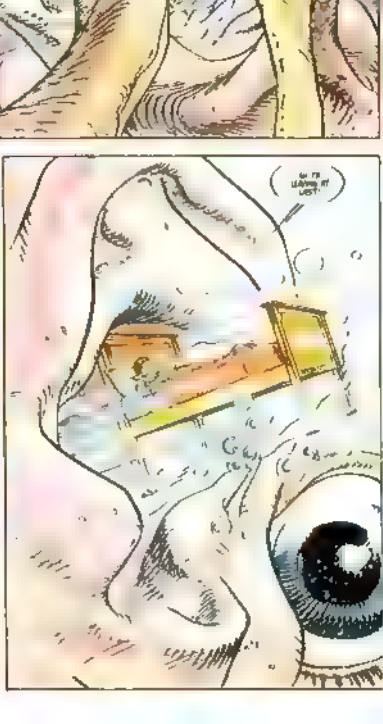



LOOK AT WHAT I CAN DO WITH MY BODY NOW. IT ONLY JUST BEGINNING TO LEARN



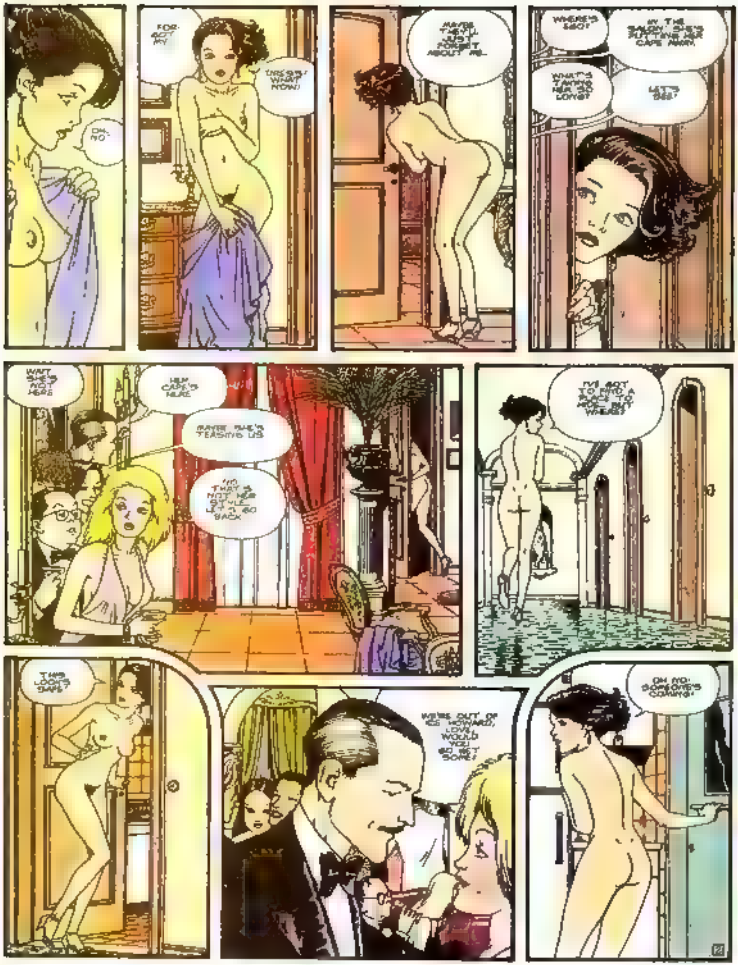


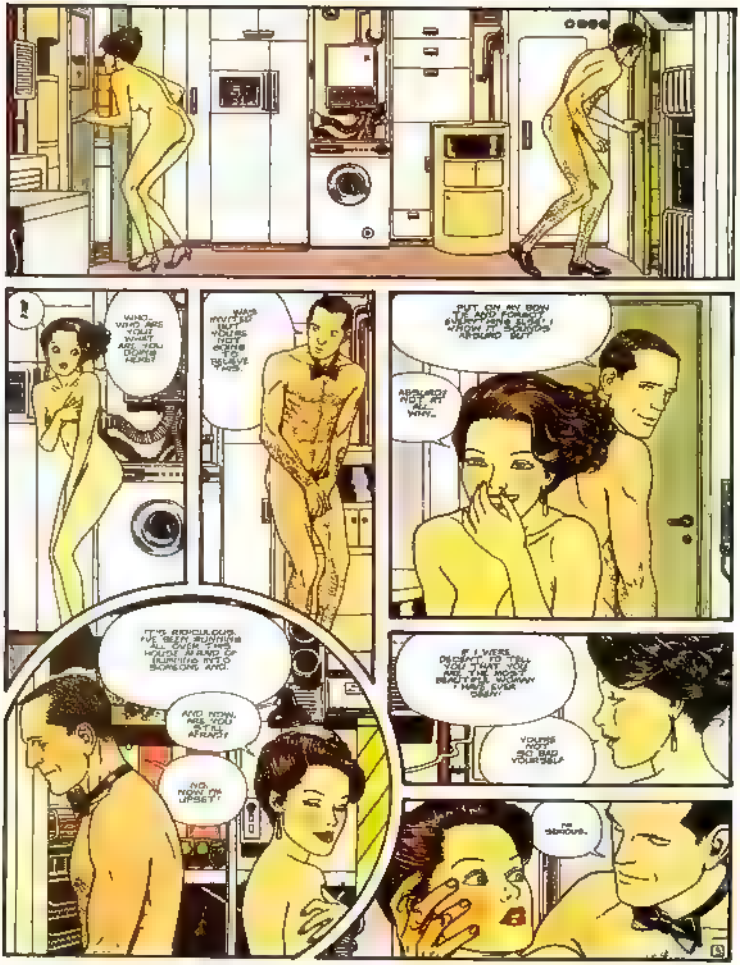




THAT'S WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THERE! NOW WE HAVE TO GET AN OLD MAN BACK ON BY RIGHT
"THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO DO IT. LEAP ON THE OLD MAN! IT'S ALWAYS WORKED IN THE PAST IN THE MIDDLE OF MY SYMPHONY CONCERTS & I DON'T SEE WHY IT'LL BE DIFFERENT IN THIS HEARTRENDING REMINISCENCE SEQUENCE!"
BOING!
BOING!
BOING!
BOING!
I'VE MISSED AGAIN AND AGAIN, AND AGAIN!
FINALLY! YOU'RE ABOUT TO GET UP NOW!
OH MY LORD, HOW ABSOLUTELY RAPTUROUS! MY DREAM CAME TRUE! OH MY DARLING PRINCE YOU BE YOUR CINDERELLA!

LITTLE EGO
COMPACT LIPSTICK... LIGHTER... I'M READY!
OHHH, I KNOW I'M FORGETTING SOMETHING!
SOME-THING IMPORTANT! BUT WHAT?
AT YOUR SERVICE PRINCESS... WHERE TO?
...TO THE PALACE
EGO DARLING! YOU LOOK SMASHING! HOWARD DIDN'T SAY HOW MARVELOUS!
ABSOLUTELY!
OH MY GOD! IT'S A VILLAGE
VOL PIKE! EXCUSE ME, I'M QUINA KIDNAPPED LENI FROM JAIL BY EGO DARLING
DEAR BLASTED SELF! I'VE SWORE CUCKOO!
STRANGE... STILL HAVE THIS HORRIBLE FEELING THAT I'VE FORGOT TEN SOME THING


NO.
FOR GET IT!
THIS IS MY WORK PHONE!
MAYBE THEY'LL JUST FORGET ABOUT ME...
WHERE'S SHE?
IT THE BOSS'S SECRETARY CAN'T MAN!
WHAT'S TAKING HER SO LONG?
HEY! SEE?
WAIT, SHE'S NOT HERE
HER COAT'S HERE.
MAYBE SHE'S TEASING US
NO THAT'S NOT HER STYLE. LET'S GO BACK
I'VE GOT TO FIND A PLACE TO PEE! BUT WHERE?
THIS LOOKS SAFE
WE'RE OUT OF CHAMPAGNE, LOVE. WOULD YOU MIND GOING TO GET SOME?
OH NO! SOMEONE'S COMING!


WHO... WHO ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WAS MYSELF BUT YOURS NOT GOING TO BELIEVE THIS.
PUT ON MY BOW TIE AND FORGOT EVERYTHING ELSE! WHOW, A BOOBS AIRGUN BUT
ABSURDLY NOT, AT ALL WAY...
IT'S RIDICULOUS. I'VE BEEN RUNNING ALL OVER THE HOUSE WITH AN AIRGUN TRYING TO SHOOT SOMEONE AND...
AND NOW, ARE YOU AFRAID?
NO. NOW I'M UPSET!
IF I WERE DISPOSED TO YOU, YOU'D JUST BE THE MOST REACTIVE WOMAN I HAVE EVER SEEN!
YOURS NOT SO BAD YOURSELF
NO SERIOUS.

YOU ARE THE WOMAN OF MY DREAMS!
THE LAUNDRY ROOM'S RIGHT HERE I'LL HELP YOU
YOU SHOULD WASH THAT T-SHIRT OUT IMMEDIATELY. LV!
ALL THESE ORGANS WITH INTERRUPTED EMBRACES ARE GOOD TO MAKE MY THERAPIST JUMP UP AND DOWN WITH JOY. SUIT I'M BEAT
Giardino 85

WILLY & HUMPUS!
FREE
Scott Morgan

G·A·L·L·E·R·Y

Rustic American Primitive Naive Painter Wayno is Unaware of His Enormous Influence

The enigmatic Wayno is the ultimate outsider artist. Living in seclusion on the family chicken farm, he has produced a rich and varied body of work over the past 20 years. The rural Pennsylvania dwelling is strewn about with enormous, hand-painted canvases. His only contact with the outside world is through his neighbor Howard Paterson, who provides him with art supplies and groceries – Buffy Burgers, rye whiskey and Moon Pies – in exchange for finished paintings. Self-portraits are many of Wayno's fantasies are of Mr. Paterson.

Sales of these paintings have netted Mr. Paterson many millions of dollars, and Wayno's influence can be seen on the work of dozens of his contemporaries of whom he has no knowledge. A forthcoming book, The Howie Pictures, reportedly has an advance printrun of 100,000 copies and has the art world salivating with anticipation. We are proud to present this feature in Strip Tease.

Six Howies, 1959
Oil and silk screen on canvas, 60 x 40

Hoodooed by Cubist Devil Doll, 1985
Acrylic and ink on acetate, 8 x 12

Clownboy Foresees His Gastrointestinal Fate in A Blob Of Faintly Porcine Tomato Sauce
Alternate Title: The Musical Fruits Jam Session, 1983
Oil on canvas, 30 x 45

Untitled, [illegible]
Enamel, housepaint and marker on wood, 32.8 x 63.2

MODERN AGE
"YOU CAN'T GET HERE FROM THERE!"
OYSTER BAY CLICHES FROM RAJAB MANZIL ®
"ETERNITY IS JUST A WASTE OF TIME!"
CRUN-CH
"OH NO! GOD HELP MEEE!"
"OH NO! GOD HELP MEEE!"? IS THAT A WISE SAYING, MR. MANZIL??
"NO! NO! JNHHH..."
HIS STRUGGLE SUBSIDES
"IF THIS VAN'S A' ROCKIN'
DON'T BOTHER KNOCKIN"
THE ADVENTURES OF WORMBOY
BRRRRR
CHATTER CHATTER
LIFE'S NOT WORTH LIVING! MAYBE IF I LIE ON THIS FROZEN POND LONG ENOUGH, SOME SKATER WILL COME ALONG AND...
AHHH
SLICE
AW NUTS!
NOW I'M TWICE AS SAD!
END

MR. PUNKPIE
MYSTIQUE SPIRIT
HEAVY METAL
NEXT EPISODE: THE END

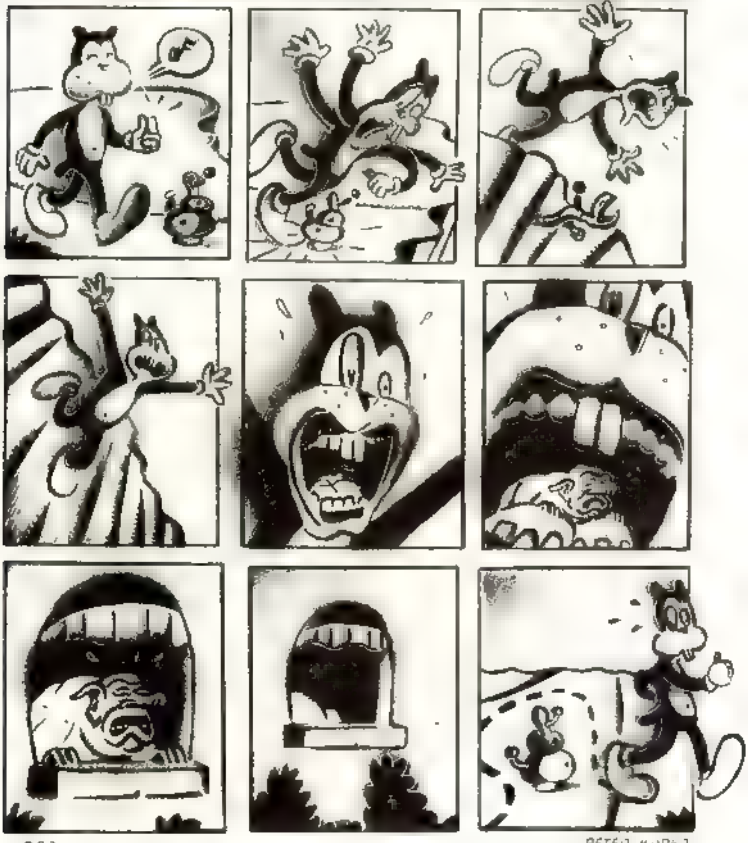
RANDY THE SKELETON
HAS A COLD THAT MAKES DEATH LOOK LIKE A MONTH IN THE COUNTRY
SNURTCH
HACCCCCK!!
I CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS!
BUT NOTHING HELPS
CROAK"
I'VE TRIED BOILING MY HEAD
SNUCK
MARINATING MYSELF IN WHISKEY
CHUSK
I'VE EVEN TRIED MOXIBUSTION
BUT NOTHING WORKS!
AH AH CHOO!!
GOOD LORD! THIS LOOKS JUST LIKE LIKE UM
HECK, IT'S GONE NOW WHO DID THAT LOOK LIKE?
HEY, I FEEL BETTER!

ARTISTS as an

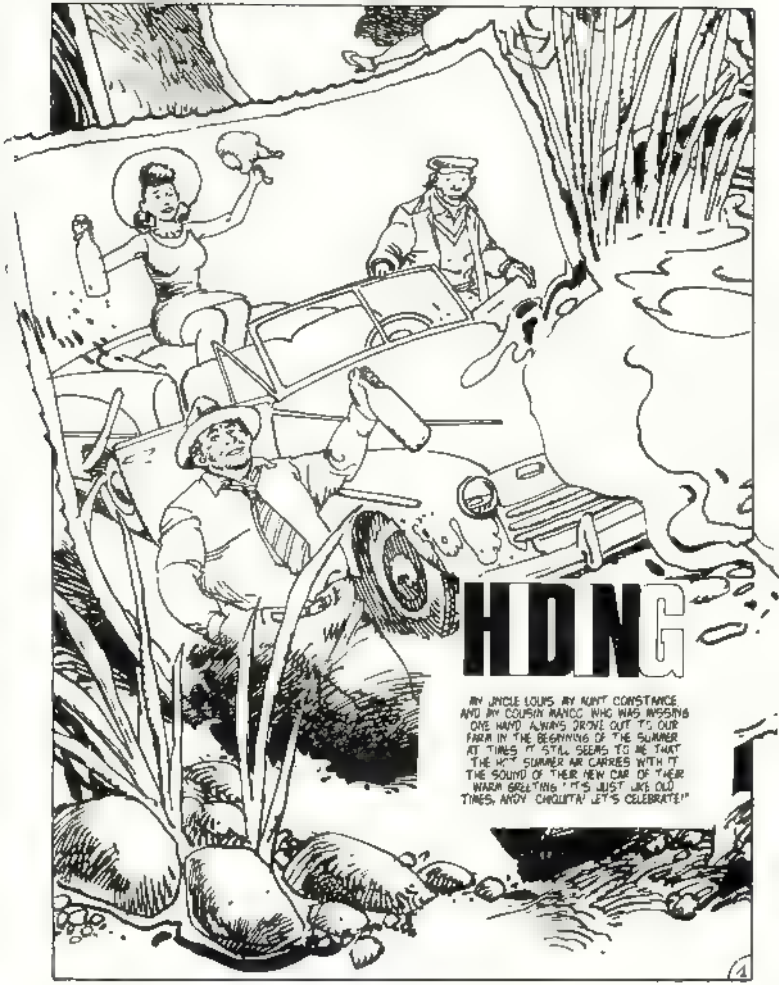
ALIEN METAPHOR

by

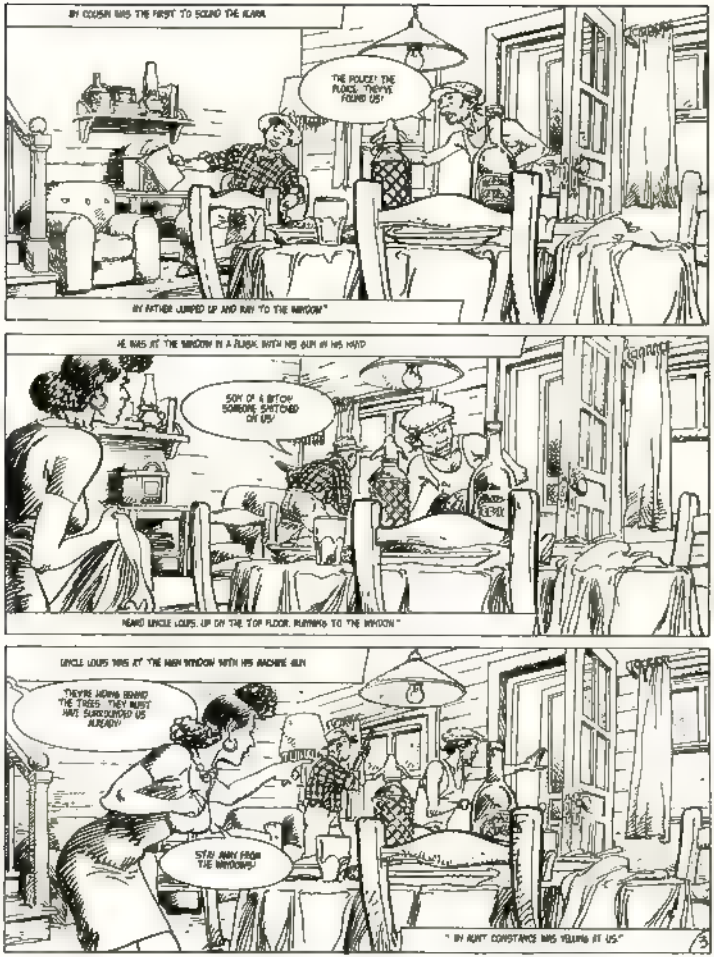
FRANK's FALL



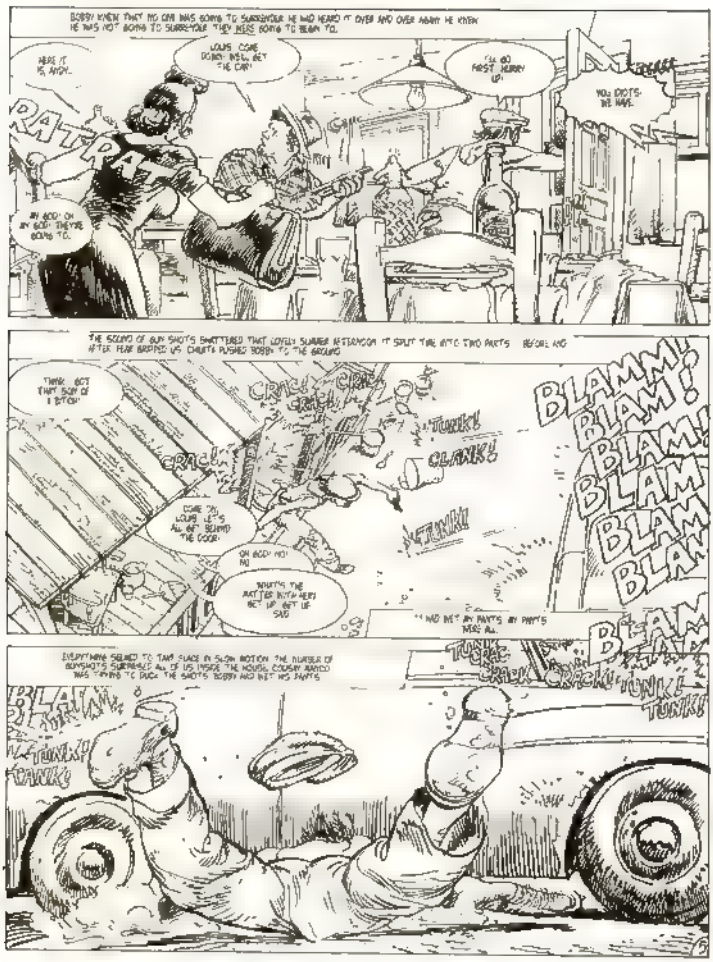
PETER KUPER

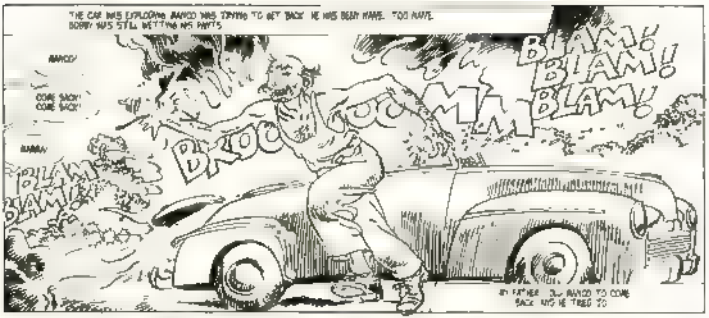

HDNG
MY UNCLE LOUIS, MY AUNT CONSTANCE AND MY COUSIN FRANCIS WHO WAS MISSING ONE HAND ALWAYS DROVE OUT TO OUR FARM IN THE BEGINNING OF THE SUMMER AT TIMES IT STILL SEEMS TO ME THAT THE HOT SUMMER AIR CARRIES WITH IT THE SOUND OF THEIR NEW CAR OF THEIR WARM GREETING "IT'S JUST LIKE OLD TIMES, ANDY CHIQUITA! LET'S CELEBRATE!"
4

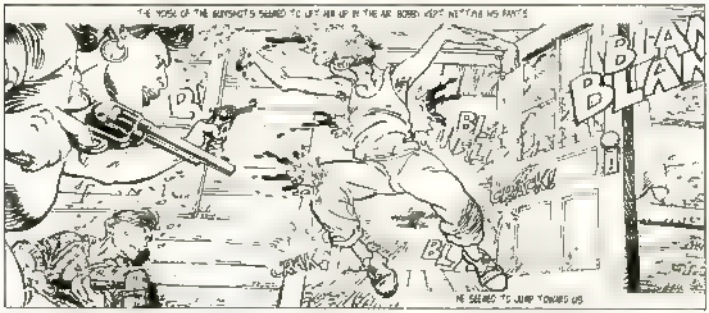
HELLO THERE MY FRIEND! HOW ARE YOU DOING?
DO YOU LIKE THE FAIR? WOULD YOU LIKE SOME CANDY?
ARE YOU HERE WITH SOMEONE? YOUR FAMILY?
IS THAT YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER OVER THERE? AND IS THE LOVELY WITH THEM YOUR UNCLE SAM AND AUNT CONSTANCE? OH THEY SEEM VERY NICE
DO THEY TAKE YOU HUNTING WITH THEM? THEY HAVE A LOT OF GUNS, YOU SAY? OF COURSE YOUR COUSIN BETH ONE WHO HAS THE MOST GUNS.
BOBBY YOU UNDUTIFUL CHILD! YOU'RE ALWAYS RUN WITH AWAY COME HERE IMMEDIATELY!

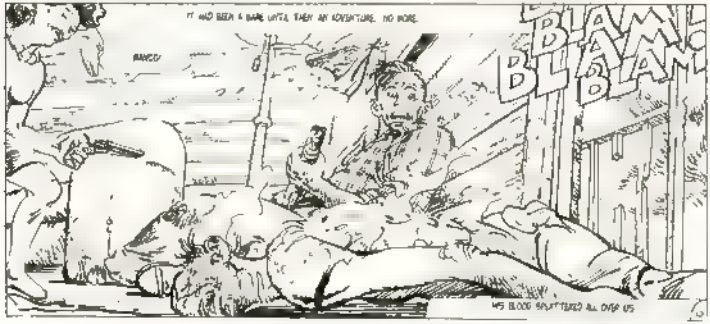

BY COUSIN WAS THE FIRST TO SOUND THE ALARM
THE POLICE! THE PIGS, THEY'VE FOUND US!
MY FATHER JUMPED UP AND RAN TO THE WINDOW"
HE WAS AT THE WINDOW IN A FLASH, WITH HIS GUN IN HIS HAND
SON OF A BITCH! SOMEONE SNITCHED ON US!
HEARD UNCLE LOUIS, UP ON THE TOP FLOOR, RUNNING TO THE WINDOW"
UNCLE LOUIS WAS AT THE MAIN WINDOW WITH HIS MACHINE GUN
THEY'RE MOVING BEHIND THE TREES. THEY MUST HAVE SURROUNDED US ALREADY
STAY AWAY FROM THE WINDOWS!
" BY AUNT CONSTANCE WAS YELLING AT US."
3

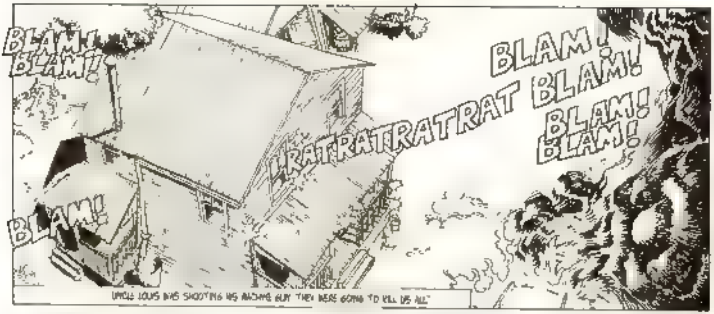
WE COULD ALL GO BUY THE BACK DOOR.
DON'T MOVE, YOU IDIOT! PULL THE CURTAINS
MMM...
"I WAS SO AFRAID COULDN'T EVEN TALK I WAS SO AFRAID."
OUR ONLY WAY OUT IS THE CAR. RUN RIGHT THROUGH THEM.
CAN DO IT MYSELF. CAN I'LL GET RID OF THEM!
WHAT WILL THEY DO?
OH MY GOD!
BARRICADE! VALENTI! WE KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE!
BUT I HAD MEANT IN MY STOMACH FELT LOT OF SORTS."
LET'S ALL GO TO THE CAR LOUIS! I'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM!
YES! CONSTANCE, QUICKLY! GET THE SHOTGUN READY.
BASTARDS! IF YOU DON'T SHOW YOUR FACE WE'LL OPEN FIRE!
SURRENDER YOUR WEAPONS! YOU ARE SURROUNDED!
ALL WANTED TO DO WAS TO GO TO THE BATHROOM"


BOBBY KNEW THAT NO ONE WAS GOING TO SURRENDER HE HAD HEARD IT OVER AND OVER AGAIN HE KNEW HE WAS NOT GOING TO SURRENDER THEY WERE GOING TO BEGIN TO.
HERE IT IS, ANDY...
LOUIS COME BOBBY WE'LL GET THE CAR!
I'LL GO FIRST HURRY UP!
YOU IDIOTS WE HAVE
RATTRAT
OH GOD! OH MY GOD! THEY'RE GOING TO.
THE SCENE OF GUN SHOTS SHATTERED THAT LOVELY SUMMER AFTERNOON IT SPLIT THE AIR INTO TWO PARTS BEFORE AND AFTER FEAR GRIPPED US CHARTS PUSHED BOBBY TO THE GROUND
THINK GET THAT SON OF A BITCH!
CRACK!
CRACK!
CRACK!
TUNK!
CLANK!
BLAMM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM
CLANK!
CRACK!
COME ON LOUIS LET'S ALL GET BEHIND THE DOOR!
OH GOD! NO! NO!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH HER? GET UP GET UP SAID
I HAD BET MY PANTS MY PANTS WERE ALL
EVERYTHING SEEMED TO TAKE PLACE IN SLOW MOTION THE NUMBER OF GUNSHOTS SURPRISED ALL OF US INSIDE THE HOUSE, COUSIN MARCO WAS TRYING TO DUCK THE SHOTS BOBBY HAD WET HIS PANTS
BLAM!
TUNK!
CLANK!
TUNK!
CRACK!
TUNK!
TUNK!


THE CAR WAS EXPLODING RANCID WAS TRYING TO GET BACK HE WAS BEAT HARD. TOO HARD.
BOBBY WAS STILL WETTING HIS PANTS
RANCID
COME BACK! COME BACK!
RANCID
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
BLOOD
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
MY FATHER SAW RANCID TO COME BACK AND HE TRIED TO


THE VOICE OF THE BASTARDS SEEMED TO LIFT HER UP IN THE AIR BOBBY KEPT WETTING HIS PANTS
BLAM! BLAM!
HE SEEMED TO JUMP TOWARDS US


IT HAD BEEN A BAD LUCK, THEIR ADVENTURE. NO MORE.
RANCID
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
HIS BLOOD SPLATTERED ALL OVER US


BLAM! BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
UNCLE LOUIS WAS SHOOTING HIS MACHINE GUN "THEY WERE GOING TO KILL US ALL"

POOWN!
THEY WON'T GET OFF OUR BACKS
OH MY GOD! OH MY GOD!
AUNT TOOK ME BACK INTO THE KITCHEN. I SAW MY AUNT CONSTANCE STAND NEAR A WINDOW. SHE HAD A GUN IN HER HAND AND SHE WAS SHOOTING!

THE ENTIRE HOUSE SHOOK WITH THE SOUND OF GUNSHOTS
BLAM BLAM
THEY GOT ME! MAMA!!
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
MOM! LOUIS "THEY GOT MOM!!
OH MY GOD! DON'T DIE MOM! DON'T DIE!
I SAW FELL TO THE GROUND. DROPPING HIS GUN THE FLOOR AND BEGAN TO LET OUT SHOTS
I SAW THE BLOOD STREAMING DOWN HIS ARM. A LARGE OBJECT FELL IN THE MIDDLE OF

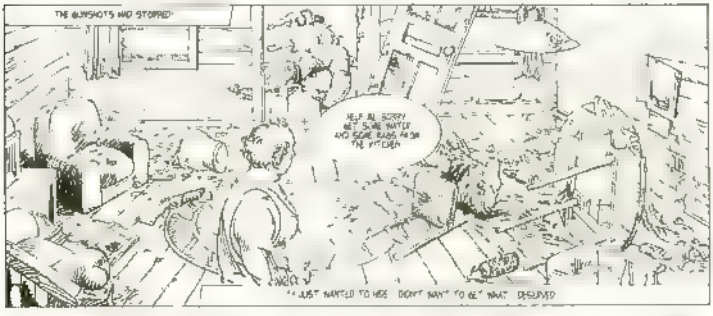
COME UP HERE OR SEE THAT BITCH INSIDE UP HERE!
DON'T MOVE, LET ME PUT A TOURNIQUET ON YOUR ARM
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
BLAM!
OHH! OHHH! THEY'RE GOING TO KILL US ALL... TOLD YOU SO, AMDY, THEY'RE GOING TO KILL US
BAAH! BAAH!
THE AIR WAS FULL OF SHOTS AND SCREAMS"
CRACK!
RAT-RAT-RAT-RAT-RAT!
CRACK!
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
RANDY, GET IN BROTHER CAN'T MOVE CLIP!
CLICK!
CLICK!
CLICK

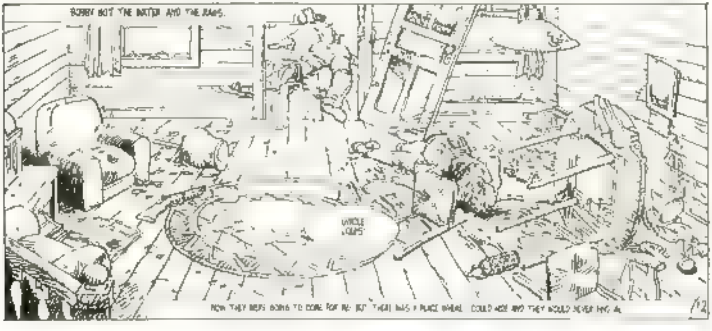
WHAT'S THE MATTER, BOBBY?
THEY'LL FIND ME UNCLE LOUIS THE BOYS ME DAD PLAYMEN COPS AND ROBBERS
IS THAT SO, BOBBY HAVE YOUR MA AND DAD TOLD YOU ABOUT THE CAPTAIN KIDD BUT'S YOUR DAD NO LONGER PLAY THE SAME GAME
COME ON, TELL YOU AN IMPORTANT SECRET KEEP IT TO YOURSELF
SEE, YOU SEE, THAT BARREL HAS TO WATER OVER THERE WELL, IT'S NOT REALLY FULL IT ONLY APPEARS FULL
A PERFECT HIDING PLACE YOUR GRANDFATHER BUILT IT FOR ME NOW THIS YOUR SECRET PLACE BOBBY

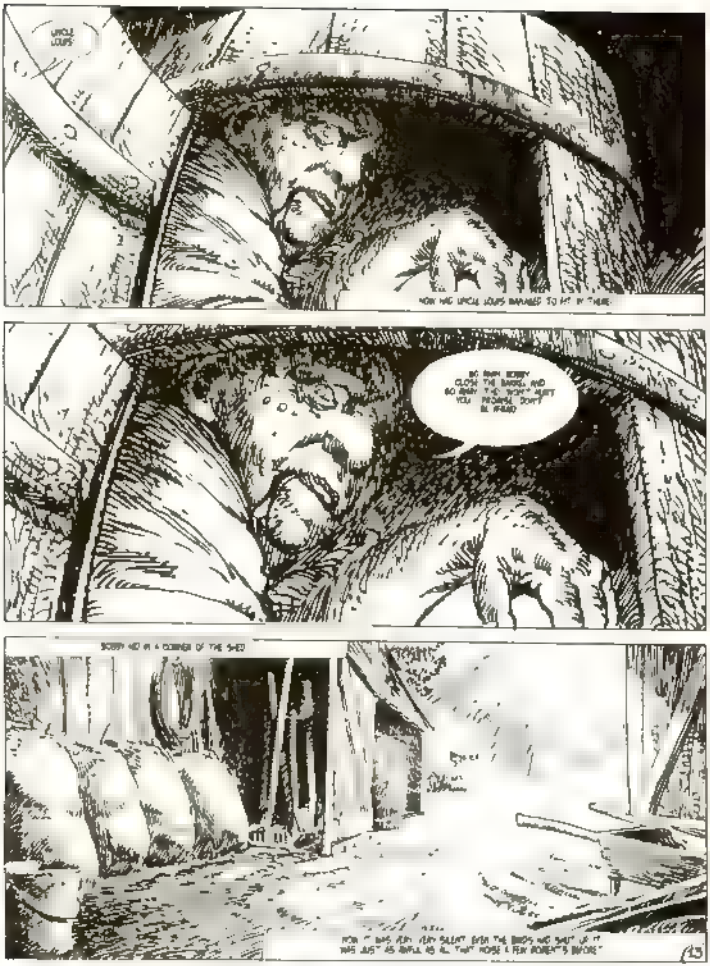
TWO MORE YEAR GAS BOMBS FELL INTO THE HOUSE. WE COULD BARELY BREATHE
ANDY GET MOVING BURY SOME PAPERS LOUIS LOUIS COME DOWN HERE WE NEED YOU!
CHICLITA!
OYOYA! OYOYA!
BLAM! BLAM!
MY BROTHER STAL IN THE KITCHEN WAS SCREAMING YELLING I'VE NEVER HEARD EVERY SO OFTEN
ANDY DRAGGED HIMSELF TOWARDS THE KITCHEN LOOKING FOR CHICLITA
LOUIS ISN'T ANSWERING ANDY THEY MUST HAVE KILLED HIM
THEY ARE GOING TO KILL US ALL JUST LIKE THAT CHICLITA! HELP ME LET'S GET OUT OF HERE
OYOYA!! OYOYA!
WHAT DO YOU SAYING, DUDE? THEY WON'T LET US GET OUT THEY'RE GOING TO SHOOT YOU NOW
PAPA WAS CALLING MAMA."
AT THE LAST MINUTE.
SO YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE US ALONE YOU BASTARD LOUIS ALWAYS SAID "THE YOU NEED A COWARD TO GIVE YOU WHAT YOU DESERVE!!
CHICLITA! BITCH! CAN'T YOU HEAR ME HELP ME!
OYOYYYY OYOYA!
THE SHOCK WAS BEATING US ALL DOWN. THE FEAR, ALMOST CONSTANCE WAS VERY HIGH! WE'D FAINT, SOMETHING WAS ABOUT TO HAPPEN!!
JOD

CONSTANCE DEMASKED HER ARMOR
I'LL SHOW YOU YOU PAYDIRT SCREWED BOY TO GIVE YOU WHAT YOU DESERVE
POOWN!
HOWDY CONSTANCE!
CRAW
CRAK!
CRAK!
CRAK!
PLEASE, PLEASE, ENOUGH. THEY'RE GONNA, CONSTANCE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING!
KAPOW
KAPOW
KAPOW
KAPOW
KAPOW!
SHARI HEARD BY HER VOICE SOUNDED STRANGE. THEN I SAW WHY SHE HAD STOPPED SCREAMING.
THEY'RE GOING TO GET US IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING FIRST!
CRAK!
PLEASE, PLEASE! CONSTANCE! DON'T LEAVE US!
CONSTANCE!
OWN!!
KAPOW
KAPOW
KAPOW
KAPOW
HALF OF MARK'S FACE WAS MISSING. SHE HAD ALREADY GOTTEN WHAT SHE DESERVED!!
DON'T LEAVE US!
KAPOW
POWKA
POWKA
POW
EVERYONE RECEIVED THEIR DUE!!
11

WHAT'S THE MATTER BOTTOM, WHY ARE YOU AFRAID OF
UNCLE LUIS!


THE GUNSHOTS HAD STOPPED!
HELP ME BOTTOM! WE'LL NEED WATER AND MORE RAGS FROM THE KITCHEN
"I JUST WANTED TO HELP. DIDN'T WANT TO GET WHAT HAPPENED


BOTTOM GOT THE WATER AND THE RAGS.
UNCLE LUIS
NOW THEY WERE GOING TO COME FOR ME. BUT THERE WAS A PLACE WHERE COULD HIDE AND THEY WOULD NEVER FIND ME.

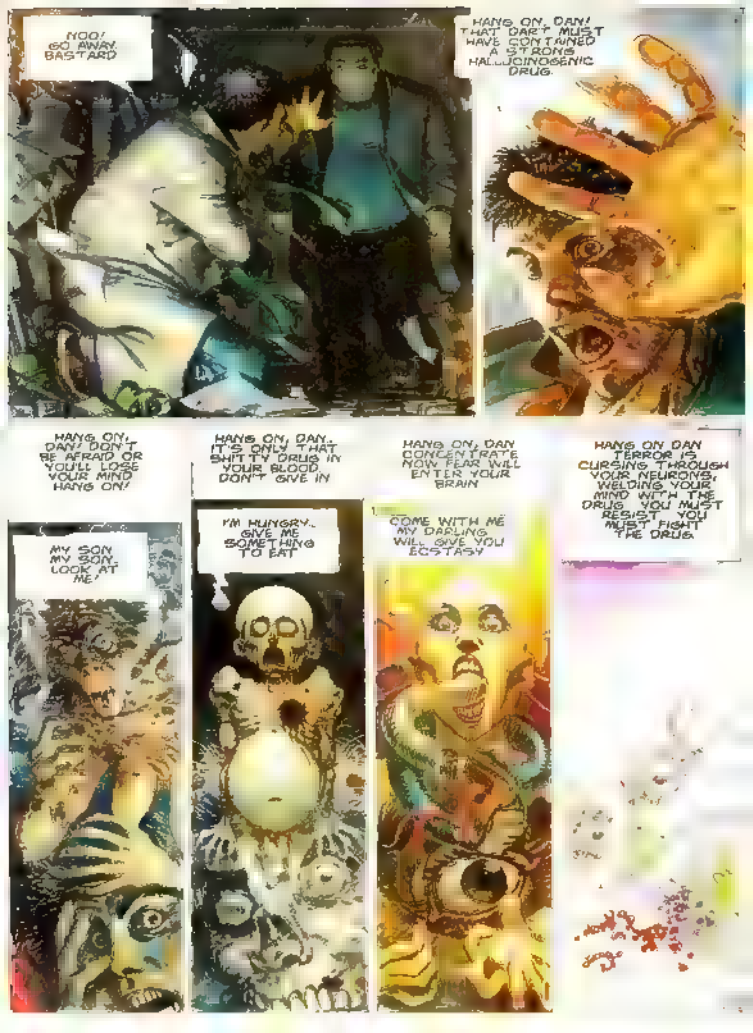

UNCLE LOUIS
NOW HAS UNCLE LOUIS MANAGED TO HIT BY THERE
SO RUN BOBBY CLOSE THE DOORS AND GO AWAY THE SHOT MUST YOU PROBABLY DON'T BE AFRAID
BOBBY HID IN A CORNER OF THE SHED
NOW IT WAS VERY VERY SILENT AFTER THE BIRDS HAD SHOT IT WAS JUST AS AWFUL AS ALL THAT NOISE A FEW MOMENTS BEFORE
43

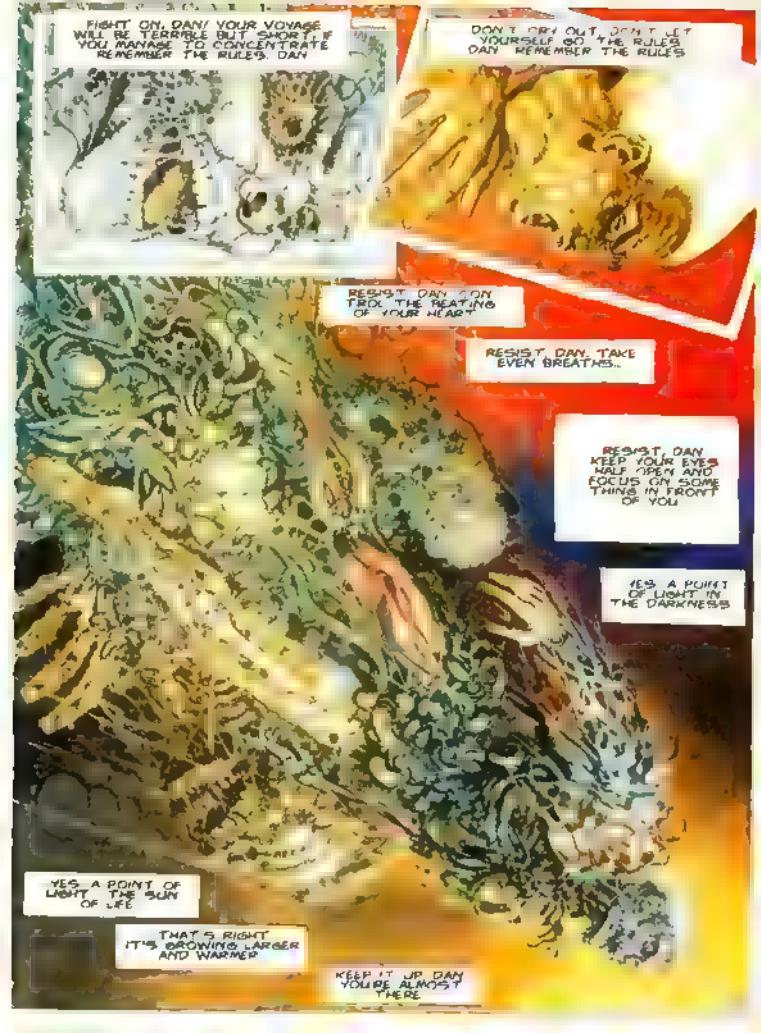
HERE'S THE KID.
IS HE ALIVE?
TAKE HIM AWAY. DON'T LET HIM SEE THE WOUNDS
WE'LL ASSUME AMAZON HE WASN'T LIFE'S KIND
KEEP THE PLACE SURROUNDED AND EXAMINE EVERY INCH!
- THEY TOOK ME OUT OF THE SHED. THE POLICE WERE EVERY WHERE. IT'S ONE THING OF LOOKING AT A BODY... THAT SEEMED ALL OF WATER. SO, NO ONE NOTICED THAT BLOOD WAS SEEPING FROM THE BOY'S TOP.
39

YOU TALK TOO MUCH, OLD MAN
AND A TONGUE THAT WAGS TOO MUCH ENDS UP HURTING THE THROAT
FORGET WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT WOMAN AND THE YOUNG MAN
ALRIGHT, BROTHER. I WILL BE MUTE AND BLIND

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 40

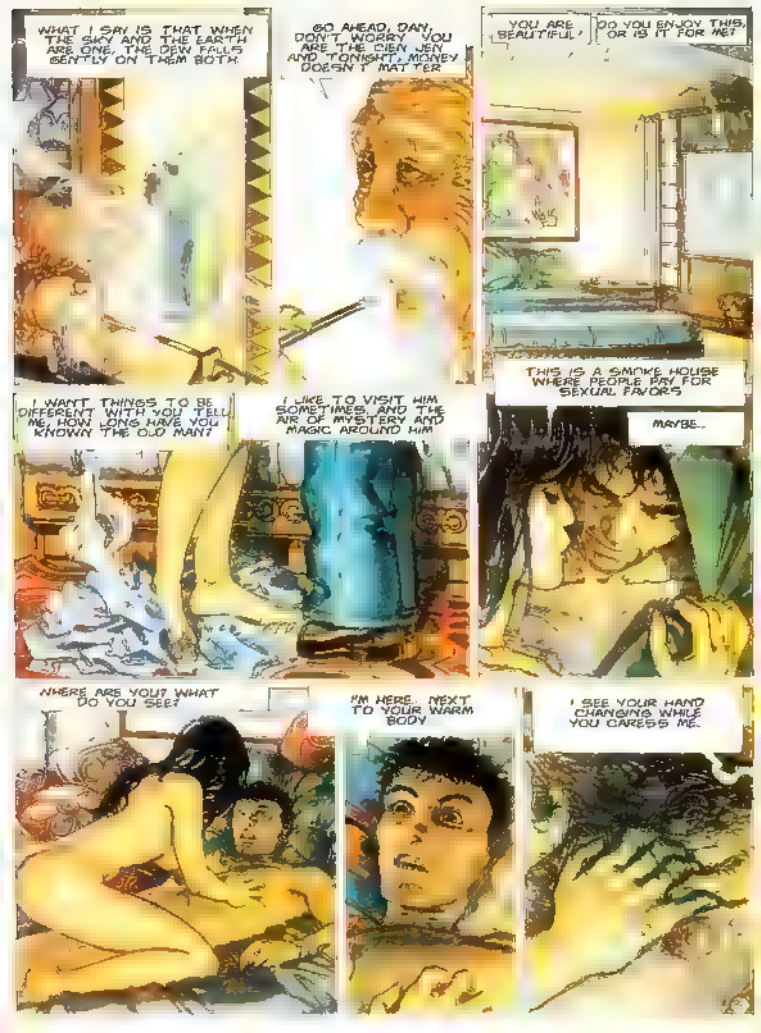
HE LEFT IN A HURRY. HE'S DISAPPEARED.
NOO!
NO!


NOO! GO AWAY BASTARD
HANG ON, DAN! THAT DART MUST HAVE CONTAINED A STRONG HALLUCINOGENIC DRUG.
HANG ON, DAN! DON'T BE AFRAID OR YOU'LL LOSE YOUR MIND HANG ON!
HANG ON, DAN. IT'S ONLY THAT SHITTY DRUG IN YOUR BLOOD DON'T GIVE IN
HANG ON, DAN CONCENTRATE NOW FEAR WILL ENTER YOUR BRAIN
HANG ON DAN TERROR IS CURSING THROUGH YOUR NEURONS, WELDING YOUR MIND WITH THE DRUG. YOU MUST RESIST. YOU MUST FIGHT THE DRUG.
MY SON MY SON. LOOK AT ME.
I'M HUNGRY. GIVE ME SOMETHING TO EAT
COME WITH ME MY DARLING WILL GIVE YOU ECSTASY


FIGHT ON, DAN! YOUR VOYAGE WILL BE TERRIBLE BUT SHORT IF YOU MANAGE TO CONCENTRATE REMEMBER THE RULES, DAN
DON'T CRY OUT, DON'T LET YOURSELF GO THE RULES, DAN REMEMBER THE RULES
RESIST DAN CONTROL THE BEATING OF YOUR HEART
RESIST DAN, TAKE EVEN BREATHS..
RESIST DAN KEEP YOUR EYES HALF OPEN AND FOCUS ON SOMETHING IN FRONT OF YOU
YES A POINT OF LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS
YES, A POINT OF LIGHT THE SUN OF LIFE
THAT'S RIGHT IT'S GROWING LARGER AND WARMER
KEEP IT UP DAN YOU'RE ALMOST THERE

LONG TIME NO SEE, MYSTERY WRITER
I'M SORRY TO DISTURB YOUR REST, MY FRIEND. HOW DID I GET HERE?
NOTHING GOES ON IN CHINATOWN THAT I DON'T KNOW. MU THE LOVELIEST OF MY GIRLS, FOUND YOU
WHAT WAS ON THAT DART?
A VIETNAMESE MIXTURE. A STRONGER DOSE WOULD HAVE KILLED YOU
HE MUST HAVE NOTICED THAT I WAS FOLLOWING HIM
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A NEW MYSTERY, DAN?
MAYBE...
WELL... THEN, SMOKE WITH ME AND TELL ME WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR. MAYBE I CAN HELP YOU

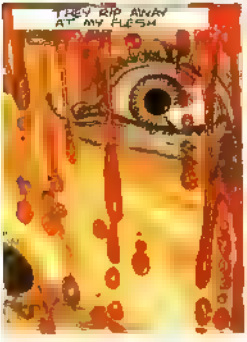
SMOKE. YOU'LL FEEL BETTER.
I REMEMBER THAT HE HAD AN EYE TATTOOED ON HIS FOREHEAD AND THAT HE DIDN'T WANT ANYONE TO ANSWER MY QUESTIONS.
I REMEMBER SOMETHING ELSE. A YOUNG VIETNAMESE MAN WITH GREAT BIG EYES WHO COULD DESTROY ANYTHING, JUST BY LOOKING AT IT
YOUR MIND WANDERS WHERE I CANNOT FOLLOW. BUT I DO KNOW WHO THE MEN WHO HAVE THAT TAT TOO ARE.
THEY BELONG TO A SECT WHICH IS RUMORED TO BE LED BY A VIETNAMESE PRIESTESS WITH MYSTERIOUS POWERS. TRY TO AVOID THEM, DAN, THEY DON'T SELL OPIUM.
THIS IS MY. SHE ASKED MY PERMISSION TO SLEEP WITH YOU. I WON'T CHARGE YOU.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING MY FRIEND? IT'S ON THE HOUSE?


WHAT I SAY IS THAT WHEN THE SKY AND THE EARTH ARE ONE, THE DEW FALLS GENTLY ON THEM BOTH.
GO AHEAD, DAN, DON'T WORRY. YOU ARE THE CHEN JEN AND TONIGHT, MONEY DOESN'T MATTER
YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL
DO YOU ENJOY THIS, OR IS IT FOR ME?
THIS IS A SMOKE HOUSE WHERE PEOPLE PAY FOR SEXUAL FAVORS
MAYBE...
I WANT THINGS TO BE DIFFERENT WITH YOU. TELL ME, HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN THE OLD MAN?
I LIKE TO VISIT HIM SOMETIMES, AND THE AIR OF MYSTERY AND MAGIC AROUND HIM
WHERE ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU SEE?
I'M HERE, NEXT TO YOUR WARM BODY
I SEE YOUR HAND CHANGING WHILE YOU CARESS ME.

NOW IT BECOMES HORRIBLE, EVIL

YOUR NAILS DIG INTO MY FLESH...

THEY TORTURE ME THEY PENETRATE ME


THEY RIP AWAY AT MY FLESH

AND THEY TAKE AWAY MY HEART THAT'S WHAT THEY WANTED

CALM DOWN. YOU ARE ONLY HALLUCINATING. THE OPIUM YOU SMOKED WITH THE OLD MAN WAS TOO STRONG.

TOMORROW, WHEN THE MAN WHO IS NOW WITH MU LEAVES, FIND HIM AND TELL HIM ABOUT THE SECRET SOCIETY WITH THE TATTOOED EYE. HE IS OUR FRIEND, HELP HIM.

AS YOU WISH!

I WANT TO FEEL YOUR PLEASURE YOU ARE SO SWEET TO LOVE
YES YES SWEET AND HANDSOME
YOU ARE TOO SWEET YOU KNOW IT
THAT MAN WAS TRYING TO FIND OUT ABOUT YOU, GREAT SPIRIT AND ABOUT YOUR SON
WHAT'D YOU DO?
I STRUCK HIM DOWN IN THE FORBIDDEN PART OF CHINATOWN
WAS HE A MEMBER OF THE TRIAD?
I AM SURE HE WAS NOT. THE TRIAD TOLD ME THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH YOU. THEY ARE AFRAID

I GUESS SU ZHOU'S DEATH CONVINCED THEM AT LAST. WHEN DO THEY WANT TO MEET?
TOMORROW NIGHT THE BOSS HIMSELF WILL COME
I WILL MAKE USE OF MY POWERS TO PUNISH HIM DUR ING OUR MEETING
VERY GOOD. WE'LL PREPARE THE GREAT HALL FOR THE MEETING. BY THE WAY, I FOUND OUT THAT TAO TENG HAS STOLEN FROM THE CASH BOX
YOUR WISH IS MY COM MAND, GREAT SPIRIT. I WILL SEE YOU TOMORROW
NO TONIGHT YOU WILL SLEEP IN MY BED
IT IS A GREAT HONOR
WHY ARE YOU STILL UP?
MOTHER, YOU DON'T LOVE ME!

WHY DO YOU SAY THAT, TAI SAN?
BECAUSE I KNOW IT! MY POWERS INCREASE AS MY BODY BECOMES WEAKER
I FEEL THAT YOU DON'T LOVE ME ANYMORE BUT I KILL FOR YOU, WITHOUT HESITATING EVERY TIME YOU ASK ME TO!
LISTEN TO ME MY SON. WE ARE STRONG NOW. OUR SECRET SOCIETY WAS FORMED ONLY A SHORT TIME AGO AND ALREADY THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT US ALL OVER CHINATOWN, SO.
DON'T LOOK ON THE DARK SIDE OF THINGS, TAI SAN. I'VE EXPLAINED IT ALL TO YOU SEVERAL TIMES
AND DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY. YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I NEED YOU. TOMORROW NIGHT YOU WILL HAVE TO SHOW OFF YOUR POWER. IT'S VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU DO IT! THE BOSS OF THE TRIAD IS NOW CONVINCED THAT WE ARE POWERFUL. WE WILL HAVE THE CHANCE TO RULE. WE WILL SEEK REVENGE...
I WILL HAVE TO PRETEND AS USUAL, THAT IT IS MY SPIRIT IN CHARGE
YOU, MY SON, WILL BE WORKING FROM BEHIND THE MIRROR

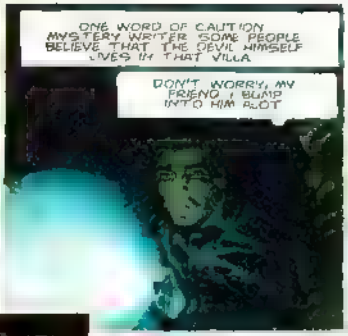
YES GO ON I'VE WANTED A MAN FOR SO LONG...
MORE... TAKE ME.. FASTER.. YES... YESSS.
YES. LIKE THAT. YOU ARE GREAT LIN YOU WILL GIVE ME PLEASURE
WIL... MAKE YOU MY RIGHT HAND MAN I DON'T JUST WANT A MAN IN MY BED I WANT SOMEONE TO STAND BY ME GO ON MORE
GREAT SPIRIT, LOOK WHO IS AT THE DOOR...
YOUR SON... HE IS SPYING ON US...
TAI SAN!

KILL HIM, TAI SAN. HE WANTED ME AND RAPED ME WHEN YOU WERE NOT AROUND
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? YOU WERE THE ONE
AHHHHH!
AHHHH!
AAA
FLOOD

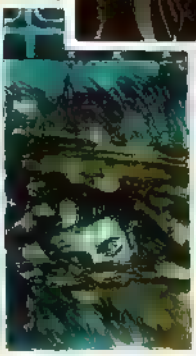
STOP TAI SAN! STOP IT! IT'S USELESS!
SHUT UP, MOTHER AND LOOK! MY POWER IS GREATER THAN EVER BEFORE
CRASH
CRASHING
ROBERTO DACOSTA

THE OLD MAN SENT ME TO HELP YOU KNOW WHERE THE SECRET HEADQUARTERS OF THE SECRET SOCIETY WITH THE TATTOOED EYE ARE
I THANK YOU AND THE OLD MAN FOR YOUR KINDNESS. I'M ALL EARS
THEIR HEADQUARTERS ARE LOCATED IN THAT LARGE HOUSE THAT LOOKS LIKE A PAGODA ALMOST AT THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE HIGH PRIESTESS?
SHE ARRIVED HERE WITH A GROUP OF "BOAT PEOPLE" IN JUST A FEW YEARS SHE HAS CREATED A CULT AND PULLED THOUSANDS OF THE SECRET SOCIETY THANKS TO THE MYSTERIOUS POWERS THAT SHE POSSESSES
I KNOW THAT THE TRIAD WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH HER BUT IT IS VERY DANGEROUS TO TALK ABOUT HER AND ABOUT THESE TOPICS IN CHINATOWN
VERY WELL WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT A CHILD IN A WHEELCHAIR?
VERY LITTLE THEY SAY THAT HE IS HER SON HE IS SICK AND NO BODY KNOWS WHAT HE HAS. HE NEVER GOES OUT OF THE VILLA AND NO ONE I KNOW HAS EVER SEEN HIM.
IS IT POSSIBLE TO GET INTO THE PAGODA WITHOUT ANYONE FINDING OUT?
YES IT IS POSSIBLE BUT YOU HAVE TO SWEAR TO ME THAT NO ONE EXCEPT FOR THE TWO OF US WILL EVER KNOW HOW YOU GOT IN THERE
I AM NOT A TALKATIVE MAN!

ALRIGHT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GET THERE BY FOLLOWING THE SEWERS. I'LL EXPLAIN TO YOU LATER HOW YOU WILL FIND YOUR WAY THROUGH THE MAZE OF TUNNELS


ONE WORD OF CAUTION MYSTERY WRITER SOME PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT THE DEVIL HIMSELF LIVES IN THAT VILLA
DON'T WORRY, MY FRIEND, I BUMP INTO HIM A LOT

I THINK IT'S THIS WAY
YES, IT MUST BE THIS WAY



HEY, THERE MUST BE A HIGH LEVEL MEETING TONIGHT!

IS EVERYTHING READY FOR THE 'SHOW'?
YES, THE GREAT SPIRIT EVERYTHING IS READY, JUST AS YOU ASKED FOR IT
COME IN, BROTHERS OF THE TRIAD! I AM DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE YOU IN MY MODEST PAGODA
THE TIME TO MEET HAS FINALLY COME, GREAT SPIRIT
YOU DID EVERYTHING YOU COULD TO BRING THIS MEETING ABOUT AND THEN SOME WELL, HERE WE ARE, JUST AS YOU WANTED, AM I RIGHT?
I ASK YOU TO LEAVE YOUR WEAPONS OUTSIDE
THE LEADERS OF THE TRIAD ARE NEVER ARMED WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR
OUR MEN HAVE SURROUNDED YOUR VILLA THEY KNOW WHAT TO DO IF WE ENCOUNTER ANY PROBLEMS
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR THE REASON YOU ARE HERE TONIGHT IS THAT YOU WILL SEE SOMETHING THAT WILL REMAIN ENGRAVED IN YOUR MEMORIES FOREVER

TAO HAS GIVEN GREAT POWERS TO MY SPIRIT AND MY EYES. POWERS THAT THE TRIAD SHOULD HAVE ON ITS SIDE
BE CAUTIOUS, WOMAN DON'T INVOKE TAO'S NAME UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.
MUCH WATER HAS FLOWED UNDER THE BRIDGE SINCE THE CHINESE FIRST BEGAN TO BELIEVE IN THE POWERS OF MAN
IT IS WITH THE STRENGTH OF MY EYES - THE EYES OF A VIETNAMESE REFUGEE - THAT I BECAME THE GREAT SPIRIT OF THE THIRD EYE SOCIETY. TAO HAS BEEN GOOD TO ME
I REGRET THAT THE TRIAD HAS FORGOTTEN ALREADY. BUT I WILL DO MY BEST TO REFRESH YOUR MEMORIES.

YOU SAY THAT YOUR EYES DEFY THE LAWS OF THE UNIVERSE
ONCE AGAIN WE ARE TALKING ABOUT YOU. ENOUGH OF THAT
SIT DOWN BROTHERS AND FEAST YOUR EYES ON THIS
I AM TIRED OF TALKING NOW. I HAVE TO CONCENTRATE.
I HAD MANAGED TO GET INTO THE VILLA, SILENT AND UNSEEN, JUST LIKE A GHOST. DARKNESS WAS FAMILIAR TO ME.
DARKNESS NIGHT VIETNAM. I WAS THINKING ABOUT WHAT I HAD SEEN THAT DAY IN BETWEEN THE VILLAGES OF XUAN LOC AND BIEN HOA.
WHAT HAD I SEEN OR WHAT DID I THINK I SAW?

WHAT A STUPID QUESTION IT HAD BEEN YEARS SINCE I WASN'T ABLE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN REALITY AND MY OWN HALLUCINATIONS
HALLUCINATIONS AND REALITY
TAN TENG YOU ARE A MEMBER OF OUR YOUNG SECRET SOCIETY
THE SYMBOL OF WHICH IS AN EYE, TATTOOED ON OUR FOREHEAD THE EYE IS OUR SYMBOL AND IT IS ALSO THE SOURCE OF MY POWER
THE POWER WHICH HAS BROUGHT YOU TO ME BUT YOU TOOK ADVANTAGE OF WHAT YOU SAW AND STOLE FROM SOCIETY'S COFFERS.
NOOO!
YOU DID NOT BELIEVE IN ME YOU ONLY BELIEVED IN YOURSELF. I WILL PUNISH YOU BY TEARING OUT YOUR EYES AND MAKING THEM ROLL OVER TO ME ON THE FLOOR
SHUT UP YOU SPINELESS WORM OR I WILL TAKE OUT YOUR TONGUE TOO. SHUT UP AND LOOK AT ME!

YES, MOTHER... I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT... YOU WANT ME TO KILL ONCE AGAIN... I KNOW THAT THIS IS AN IMPORTANT MOMENT FOR YOU...
BUT I WILL NOT KILL TODAY...
NO, NOT TODAY
COME ON, TAI SAN... SHOW THEM OUR POWERS
NOOO!
COME ON, YOU BASTARD! HOW DARE YOU SHAME ME LIKE THIS?

NOTHING! NOTHING IS HAPPENING TO ME!

VIETNAMESE WOMAN, YOU HAVE SUCCEEDED IN MAKING US LOOK RIDICULOUS. IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANTED, YOU CERTAINLY GOT IT.
YOU WILL PAY A PRICE FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE... NOT RIGHT AWAY, BUT WE WON'T CHARGE ANY LESS FOR THE WAIT
YOU AND YOUR FOLLOWERS WILL DISAPPEAR AND IT WON'T BE A MAGIC TRICK
THE TRIAD'S POWER WILL BE AGAINST YOU. YOU HAVE PLAYED WITH FIRE!
YOU WILL COME WITH US, THIEF - WE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU.
HE - HE LOST HIS POWERS. WE HAVE TO RUN AWAY, ALL OF US!
GET OUT, EVERYBODY! OUT OF MY SIGHT!

WHO ARE YOU AND WHAT DO YOU WANT?
DO YOU WANT TO DIE, MAYBE?
I DON'T EXIST. I AM A SHADOW THAT HAS BEEN FOLLOWING YOU SINCE THE DAY YOU APPEARED TO ME, IN VIETNAM.
IF YOU ARE A SHADOW, THEN SHUT UP AND PAY ATTENTION. MAYBE ONE DAY YOU WILL WANT TO TELL OUR STORY, ALTHOUGH NO ONE WILL BELIEVE YOU
WHY?
WHY?
HAVE YOU LOST YOUR POWERS?

NO, MOTHER MY POWERS ARE EVEN GREATER THAN BEFORE
SO WHY DID YOU DO IT?
MUCH GREATER!

DO YOU REALLY NEED TO ASK?
YOU KNOW WHY I DID IT. YOU HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN THAT AS MENTAL POWERS GREW, MY BODY BECAME WEAKER
LOOK MOTHER, YOU HAVE NOT ALLOWED A DOCTOR TO SEE ME BECAUSE YOU WERE TERRIFRAID THAT SOMEONE WOULD TAKE ME AWAY. YOU DON'T LOVE ME, MOTHER. YOU NEVER LOVED ME. YOU HAVE ALWAYS USED ME, USED ME TO GET TO WHERE YOU WANTED TO GO, TO FULFIL YOUR CRAZY DREAMS
THAT IS WHY TODAY I DECIDED THAT I WOULDN'T LISTEN TO YOU ANYMORE FORGIVE ME, MOTHER
YOU ARE RIGHT, MY BASTARD. I HAVE NEVER LOVED YOU AND DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY? BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT MY SON.
I FOUND YOU IN A VILLAGE AFTER THE AMERICANS HAD BOMBED IT. EVERYONE AROUND YOU WAS DEAD

WHEN I DISCOVERED YOUR POWERS, I DECIDED TO TAKE YOU WITH ME BUT NO ONE WAS TO KNOW WHAT YOU COULD DO, NO ONE!
IT'S TRUE. I HAVE NEVER HELPED YOU. NOW I HATE YOU. I HATE YOU WITH ALL MY HEART!
IF YOU ARE NOT MY MOTHER, THEN YOU TOO CAN DIE.
NO! DON'T DO IT!

HALLUCINATION OR REALITY?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SHADOW?
I AM COVERING YOU
STAY AWAY FROM ME, SHADOW!
THE SHOW IS NOT OVER YET!
NO! DON'T DO IT!
SHUT UP AND LOOK!

TRY TO REMEMBER EVERY THING, SHADOW, BECAUSE IN A VERY SHORT TIME THERE WILL BE NOTHING LEFT.
ONLY A FEW MEMORIES...
MEMORIES OF NOTHING!

A VIOLENT FIRE, THE ORIGIN OF WHICH IS UNKNOWN, DESTROYED A VILLA ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF LOS ANGELES TODAY. THE VILLA WAS LARGE, AND SHAPED LIKE A PAGODA...
APPARENTLY THIS VILLA WAS BUILT BY A SECRET SOCIETY FROM VIETNAM. THE SOCIETY HAD FEW FOLLOWERS AND WAS LED BY A PRIESTESS WITH MYSTERIOUS POWERS... WHAT WE DO KNOW IS...
...THAT ACCORDING TO THE CHIEF OF THE FIREMEN WHO RUSHED TO THE SCENE, THE FIRE THAT DESTROYED THE BUILDING SEEMED TO BE ALIVE, AS IF POSSESSED OF A DIABOLICAL STRENGTH...
IS LOS ANGELES BECOMING THE CITY OF MYSTERY? WE WILL TRY TO GIVE YOU AN ANSWER IN OUR NEXT REPORT.
GOODBYE, TAI SAN! YOUR STORY HAS REACHED ITS END.
YES, NOW EVERYTHING IS HERE, IN MY HEAD.

TIC TIC TIC TIC
ROBERTO CULPA
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THE EYE OF DOOM
TIC
TIC TIC
TIC

THE EYE OF DOOM.
ONE DAY
TIC TIC

THE EYE OF DOOM.
ONE DAY IN 1975, IN THE MIDST OF
TIC

THE EYE OF DOOM.
ONE DAY IN 1975, IN THE MIDST OF THE VIETNAMESE JUNGLE.
TIC
TIC

THE END